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MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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WHAT IF SPIDER-MAN HAD RESCUED GWEN STACY?

AT LAST! THE MOST EAGERLY AWAITED WHAT IF OF ALL!

WHATEVER YOU DO, SPIDER-MAN... DON'T SAVE HER!

Stan Lee presents: A STUNNING SAGA OF AN ALTERNATE REALITY!

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*SPIDER-MAN #121-122. -- D/M.

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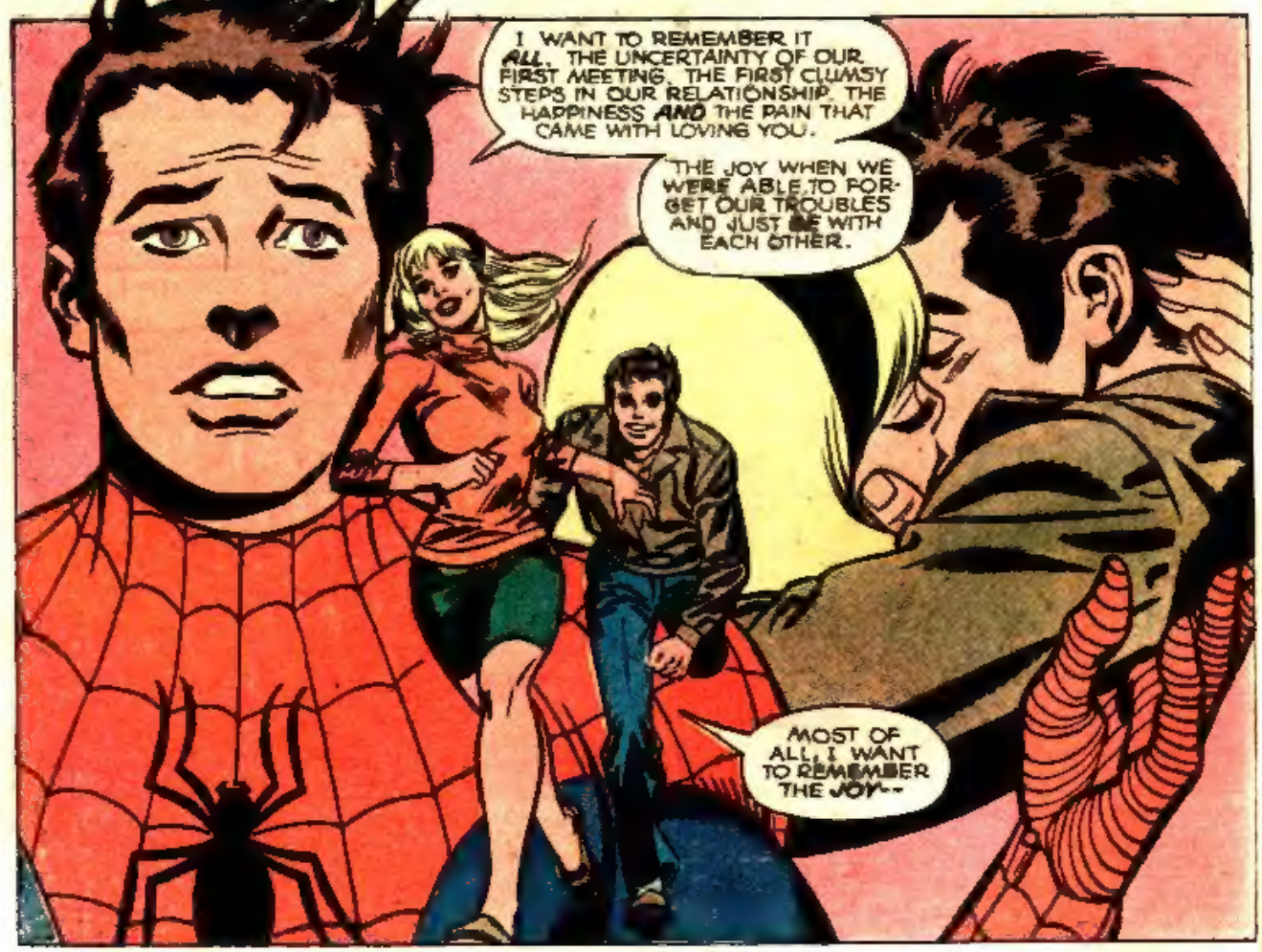
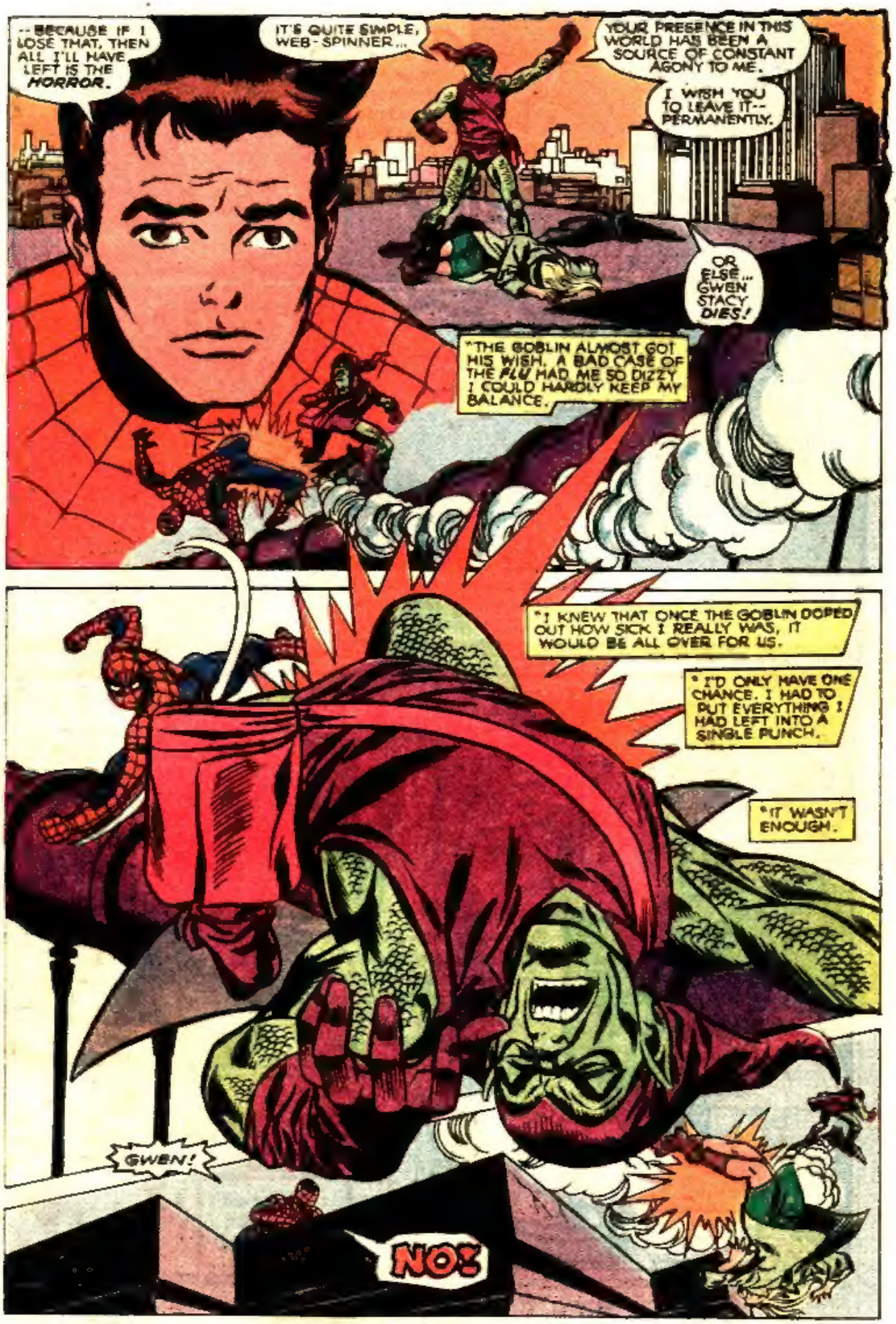
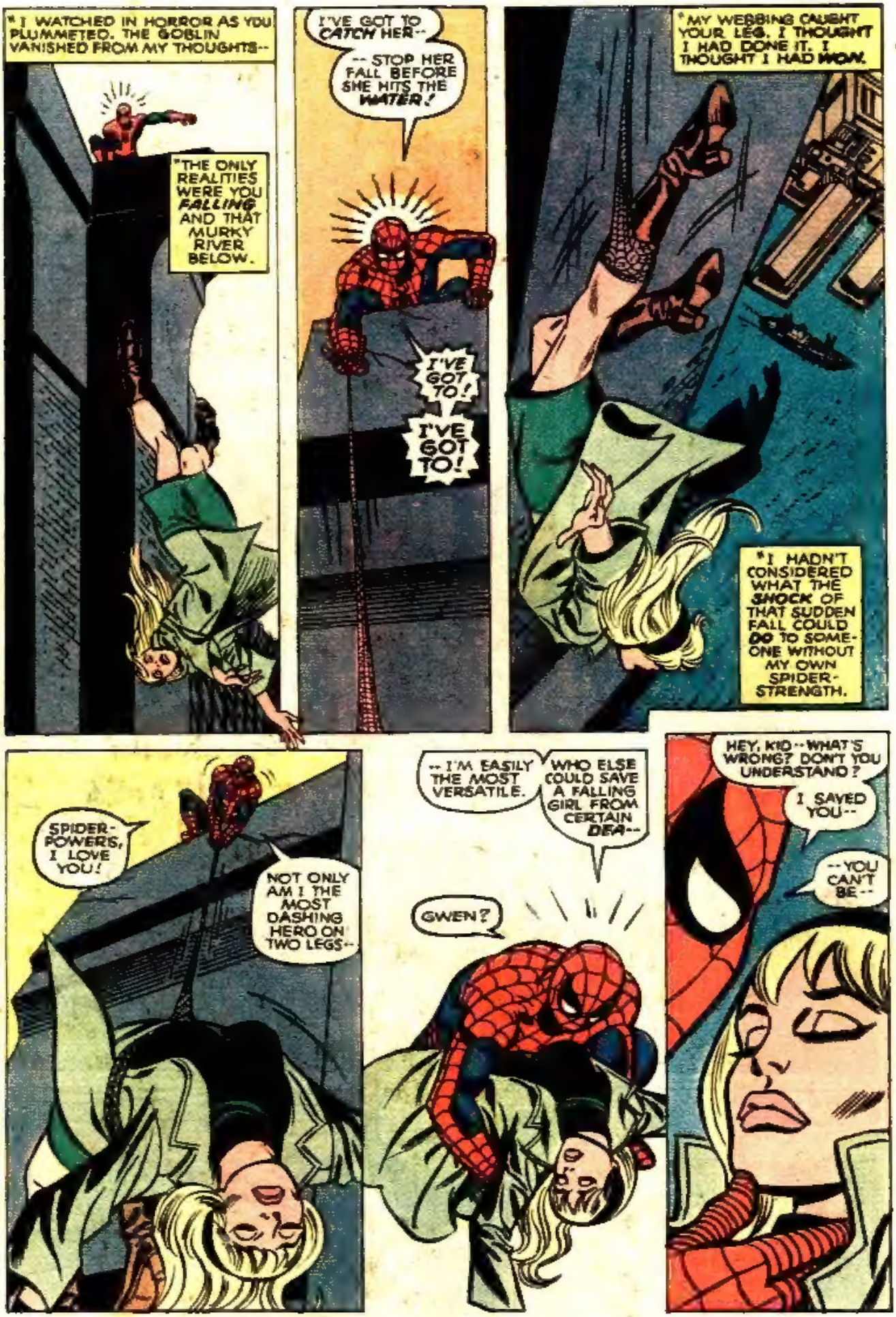
THE CHILL NIGHT AIR FRAMES HIS HALTING WORDS AS HE ADDRESSES THE FACE THAT LOOMS BEFORE HIS MIND'S EYE...
HI, GWEN -- IT'S ME. I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN...

I'VE TRIED TO FORGET YOU, GWEN -- I KNOW YOU'D WANT IT THAT WAY -- I'VE REALLY TRIED.
SOMETIMES I EVEN MANAGED TO GO FOR WEEKS AT A TIME WITHOUT THINKING OF YOU.

THEN I SEE SOMETHING THAT REMINDS ME OF YOU -- SOME LITTLE RESTAURANT WE WENT TO -- SOME "CUTE" PRESENT YOU GAVE ME -- AND THAT'S WHEN IT ALL COMES BACK.
THAT'S WHEN IT STARTS TO HURT.
BUT I CAN LIVE WITH THE HURT, GWENDY.
BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO FORGET YOU.


I WANT TO REMEMBER IT ALL. THE UNCERTAINTY OF OUR FIRST MEETING, THE FIRST CLUMSY STEPS IN OUR RELATIONSHIP. THE HAPPINESS AND THE PAIN THAT CAME WITH LOVING YOU.
THE JOY WHEN WE WERE ABLE TO FORGET OUR TROUBLES AND JUST BE WITH EACH OTHER.
MOST OF ALL, I WANT TO REMEMBER THE JOY--

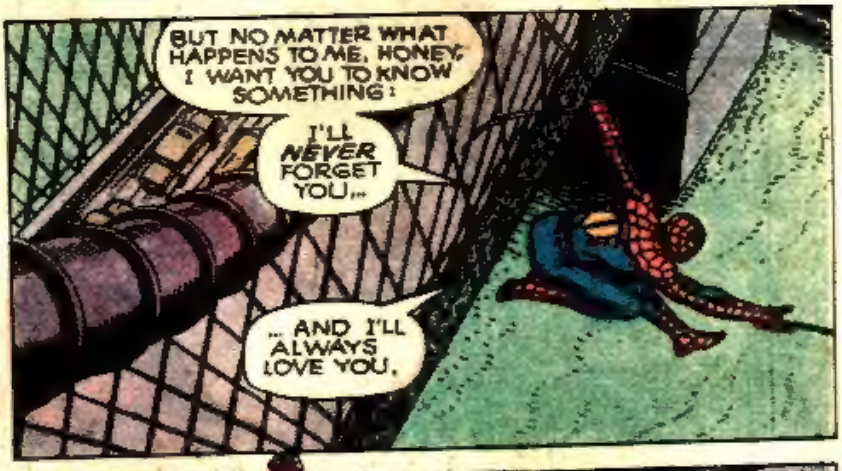

--BECAUSE IF I LOSE THAT, THEN ALL I'LL HAVE LEFT IS THE HORROR.
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, WEB-SPINNER...
YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS WORLD HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONSTANT AGONY TO ME.
I WISH YOU TO LEAVE IT--PERMANENTLY.
OR ELSE... GWEN STACY DIES!
"THE GOBLIN ALMOST GOT HIS WISH. A BAD CASE OF THE FLU HAD ME SO DIZZY I COULD HARDLY KEEP MY BALANCE.
"I KNEW THAT ONCE THE GOBLIN DOPED OUT HOW SICK I REALLY WAS, IT WOULD BE ALL OVER FOR US.
"I'D ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE. I HAD TO PUT EVERYTHING I HAD LEFT INTO A SINGLE PUNCH.
"IT WASN'T ENOUGH.
GWEN!
NO!


"I WATCHED IN HORROR AS YOU PLUMMETED. THE GOBLIN VANISHED FROM MY THOUGHTS--
"THE ONLY REALITIES WERE YOU FALLING AND THAT MURKY RIVER BELOW.
I'VE GOT TO CATCH HER--
-- STOP HER FALL BEFORE SHE HITS THE WATER!
I'VE GOT TO!
I'VE GOT TO!
"MY WEBBING CAUGHT YOUR LEG. I THOUGHT I HAD DONE IT. I THOUGHT I HAD WOW.
"I HADN'T CONSIDERED WHAT THE SHOCK OF THAT SUDDEN FALL COULD DO TO SOMEONE WITHOUT MY OWN SPIDER-STRENGTH.
SPIDER-POWERS, I LOVE YOU!
NOT ONLY AM I THE MOST DASHING HERO ON TWO LEGS--
-- I'M EASILY THE MOST VERSATILE.
WHO ELSE COULD SAVE A FALLING GIRL FROM CERTAIN DEA--
GWEN?
HEY, KID -- WHAT'S WRONG? DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
I SAVED YOU--
-- YOU CAN'T BE--

I SAVED YOU, HONEY... DON'T YOU SEE?
I saved you...

BUT I DIDN'T SAVE YOU, DID I, GWEN?
LIKE YOUR FATHER -- LIKE MY OWN UNCLE BEN -- THE SPECTRE OF SPIDER-MAN CROSSED YOUR PATH --
--AND BROUGHT YOU DEATH.

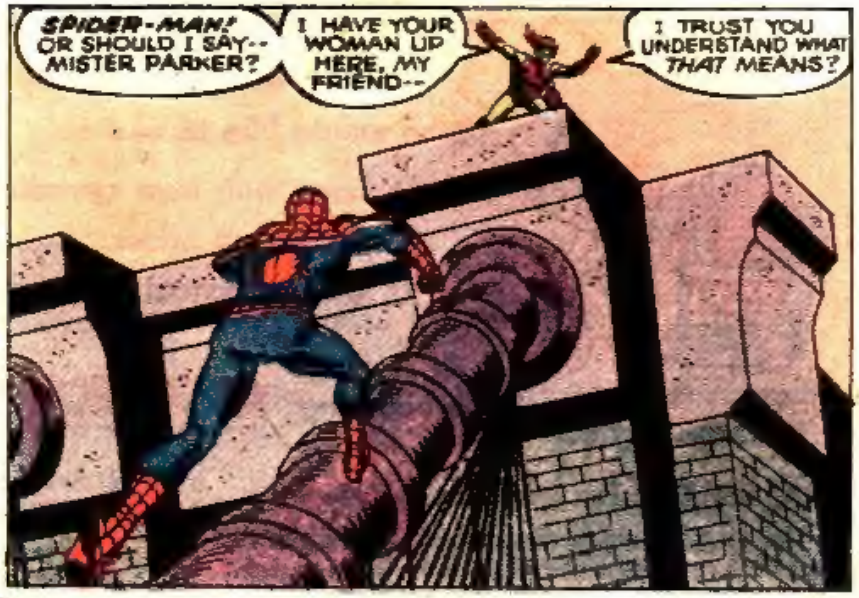
I GUESS I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU I'M SORRY -- TO TELL YOU THAT A PART OF ME DIED HERE WITH YOU.
TO TELL YOU THAT NO MATTER WHAT I HAVE WITH ANYONE ELSE, IT'LL NEVER BE AS GOOD AS WHAT I HAD WITH YOU.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING.
MAYBE SOMEDAY I WILL FIND HAPPINESS.
SOMEHOW.


BUT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, HONEY, I WANT YOU TO KNOW SOMETHING:
I'LL NEVER FORGET YOU...
... AND I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

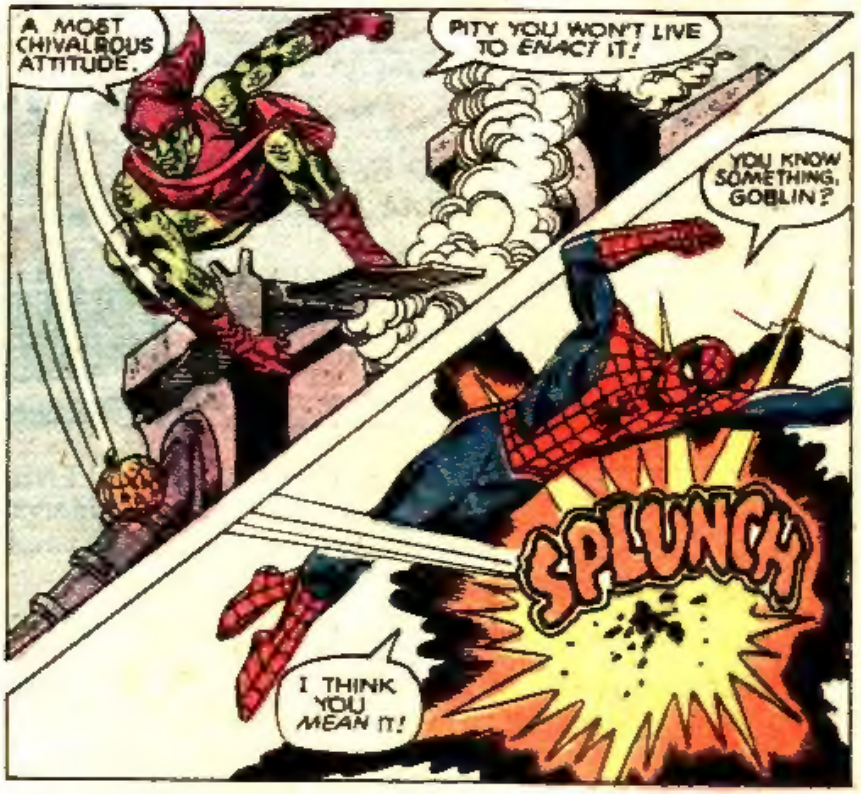
HE IS NOT A HOLLOW MAN, THIS PETER PARKER. HE WILL, INDEED, CARRY THIS GRIEF ALL THE DAYS OF HIS LIFE.
HE WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE GNAWING FEELING THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING HE MIGHT HAVE DONE...
THWIP!
... THAT HE IS, AT LEAST IN PART, RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS TRAGEDY...

I AM THE WATCHER-- AND I TOO KNOW SOMETHING OF RESPONSIBILITY. FOR YEARS BEYOND RECKONING, IT HAS BEEN MY RESPONSIBILITY TO OBSERVE AND RECORD THE ETERNAL TABLEAU OF HISTORY ON THE PLANET EARTH.
BUT RECENTLY I LEARNED THAT THERE ARE OTHER EARTHS THAN THAT WHICH EXISTS IN YOUR UNIVERSE... EARTHS WHICH DIVERGE FROM ONE ANOTHER AT CRITICAL POINTS TO CHART ALTERNATE HISTORIES.
EXAMINING THE REALITY OF THESE DIVERGENT EARTHS HAS OFTEN PROVIDED ME INSIGHTS INTO THE MEN OF YOUR WORLD-- FOR THESE WERE THE SAME BEINGS UNTIL THEIR LIVES TOOK OTHER PATHS.
ON YOUR WORLD, THE COSTUMED YOUTH NAMED SPIDER-MAN FEELS REMORSE AT HIS FAILURE TO SAVE THE WOMAN HE LOVED.
BUT IF HE COULD SEE, AS I CAN, THAT A REALITY AWAY GWENDOLYN STACY HAD A DIFFERENT DESTINY-- ONE THAT IRREVOCABLY ALTERED HIS OWN--
--WOULD THAT KNOWLEDGE COMFORT HIM OR EMBITTER HIM?
THAT IS NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE. I FEAR THAT FEW HUMAN MINDS COULD EVEN COPE WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MULTI-PLICITY OF EXISTENCE.
LET US RETURN TO THE FATEFUL MOMENTS THAT LED, IN ONE REALITY, TO GWEN STACY'S DEATH -- AND WITNESS A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE...

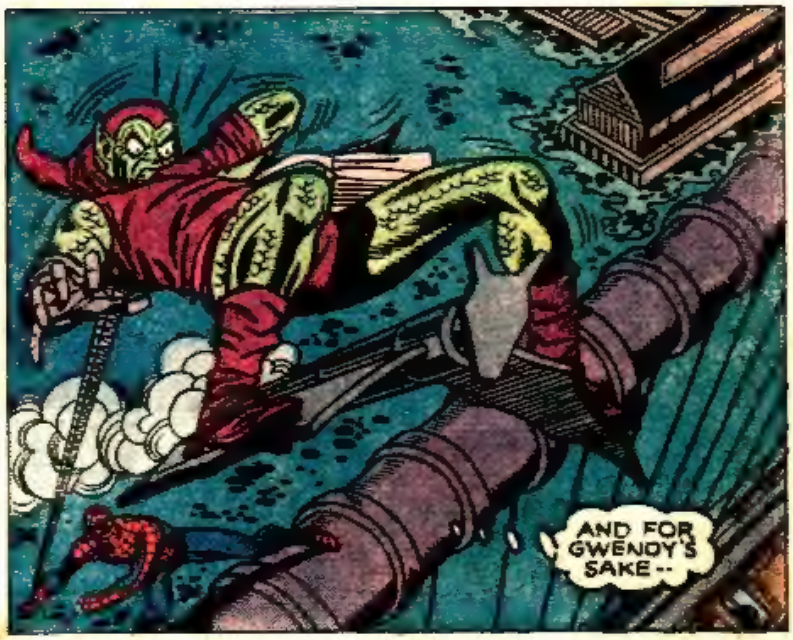
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE!
IT FIGURES OSBORN WOULD PICK SOMETHING NAMED AFTER HIS FAVORITE PRESIDENT.
HE'S GOT THE SAME SORT OF HANGUP FOR DOLLAR BILLS.


SPIDER-MAN! OR SHOULD I SAY-- MISTER PARKER?
I HAVE YOUR WOMAN UP HERE, MY FRIEND--
I TRUST YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?

THAT CUTS IT, PUMPKIN BOY.
UP TO NOW, I'VE BEEN REAL FRIENDLY-- CONSIDERING YOUR PROBLEM, AND ALL THAT.
BUT, BUSTER-- WHEN YOU START THREATENING MY GIRL--
--THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF!


A MOST CHIVALROUS ATTITUDE.
PITY YOU WON'T LIVE TO ENACT IT!
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, GOBLIN?
SPLUNCH
I THINK YOU MEAN IT!

ONCE THE GOBLIN CATCHES ON TO HOW SICK I AM-- I'VE HAD IT!
SO I'VE GOT TO MOVE NOW!
I MAY NOT GET ANOTHER CHANCE!


AND FOR GWENDY'S SAKE--

-- I'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS ONE COUNT!
WHAP

GWEN!
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN A STATE OF SHOCK!
I'D BETTER GET HER TO A HOSPITAL!

YOU CURSED INTERLOPER!
YOU'LL NEVER TAKE THAT GIRL ANYWHERE!
SHE'S DOOMED, DO YOU HEAR ME?
WHAK
GWEN!

DOOMED -- AND SO ARE YOU!

NO!

"FOR ONE FLEETING INSTANT TIME SEEMS CRYSTALLIZED AS A THOUSAND POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION FLIT THROUGH SPIDER-MAN'S MIND. HIS FIRST IMPULSE IS TO STOP HER DESCENT WITH HIS CHEMICAL WEB --

"-- BUT, EVEN AS HIS MIDDLE FINGERS TOUCH HIS WEB-SHOOTER, THAT NOTION IS DISPELLED BY A TINY MOTE OF CAUTION. THE NEXT MOMENT, THE REALITY WITH WHICH WE ARE FAMILIAR IS NO MORE...

LEG MUSCLES, DON'T FAIL ME NOW! GWENDY'S ONLY CHANCE IS FOR ME TO REACH HER BEFORE SHE HITS --

-- WHICH ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY, WHAT WITH HER HEAD-START!

"HIS POWERFUL LEG MUSCLES PROPELLING HIM DOWNWARD...

"SPIDER-MAN POURS EVERY ERG OF HIS BEING INTO OVERTAKING THE FALLING FIGURE...

I - I'M DOING IT!!

GOT HER!

NOW IF I CAN SNAG THE NEAREST BRIDGE PYLON WITH MY TRUSTY WEB, WE'LL BE HOME FREE!

MY FOE'S ATHLETIC PROWESS IS INCREDIBLE, BUT EVEN HE IS ONLY HUMAN. HE FORGOT TO ALLOW FOR THE WIND CURRENTS--

AND HIS WEBBING MISSED THE BRIDGE ENTIRELY!

OH, GOD-- WHEN IT MATTERED MOST--

--I BLEW IT!

NO-- I CAN'T LET IT END LIKE THIS!

GOT TO TWIST MY BODY AROUND--

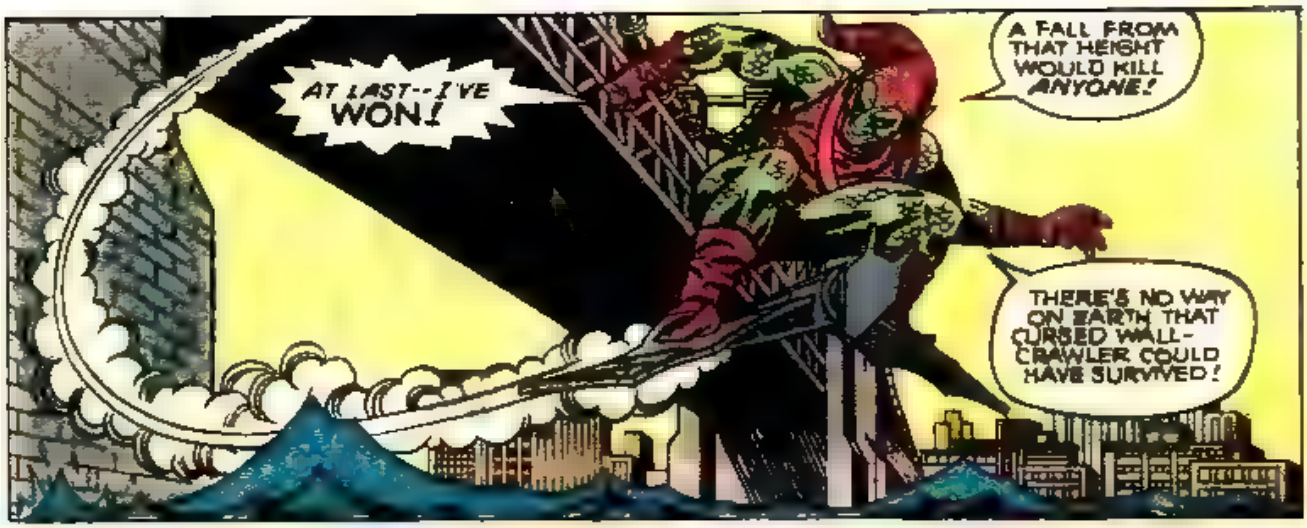
--USE IT TO CUSHION OUR FALL!

MAYBE THAT'LL GIVE GWEN A

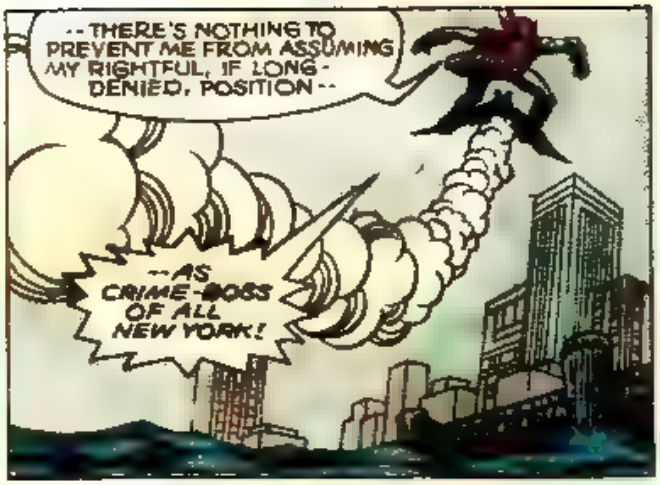
SPLASH

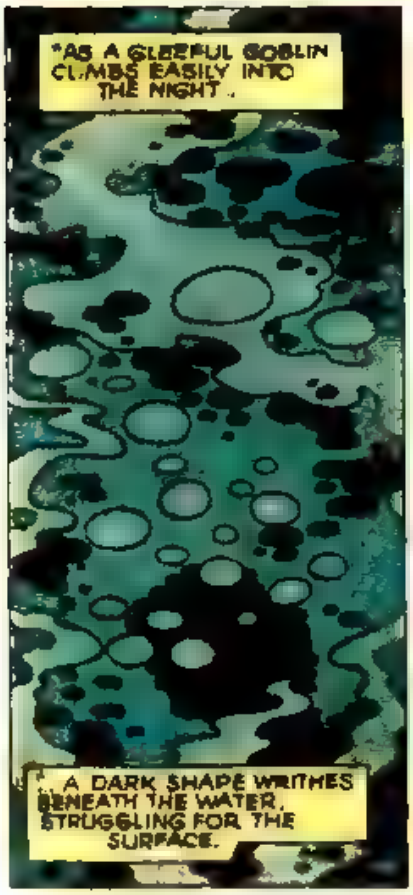
"THE MURKY WATERS OF THE HUDSON RIVER CHURN AT THE IMPACT

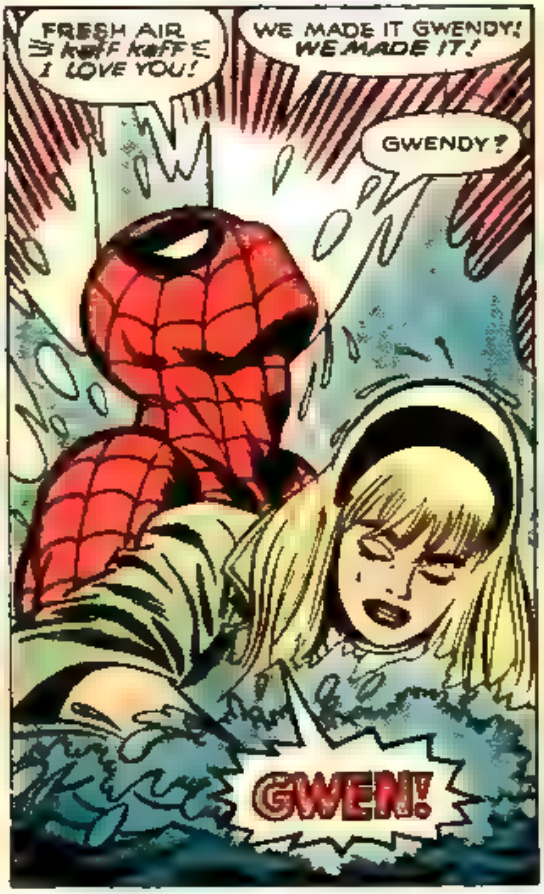
"...BUT MOMENTS LATER, THE RIPPLES THAT MARK THEIR PLUNGE ARE LOST IN THE RIVER'S FLOW.


AT LAST--I'VE WON!
A FALL FROM THAT HEIGHT WOULD KILL ANYONE!
THERE'S NO WAY ON EARTH THAT CURSED WALL-CRAWLER COULD HAVE SURVIVED!

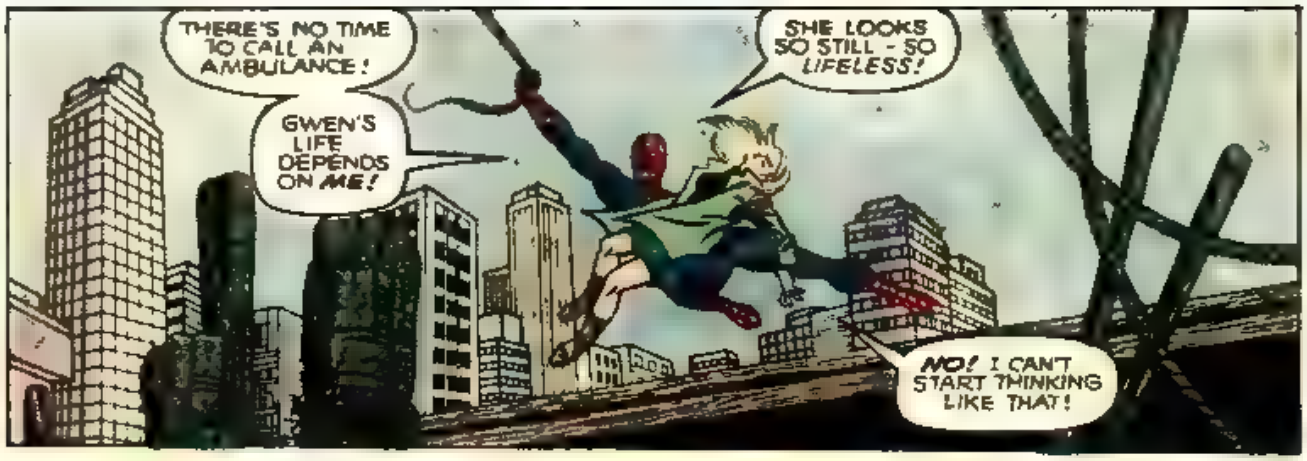
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, PARKER IS OUT OF MY HAIR FOREVER!
AND WITH SPIDER-MAN DEAD--

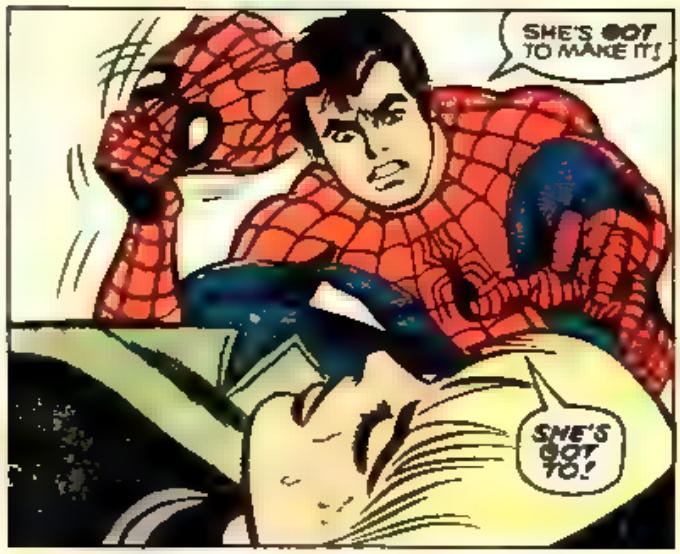

--THERE'S NOTHING TO PREVENT ME FROM ASSUMING MY RIGHTFUL, IF LONG-DENIED, POSITION--
--AS CRIME-BOSS OF ALL NEW YORK!

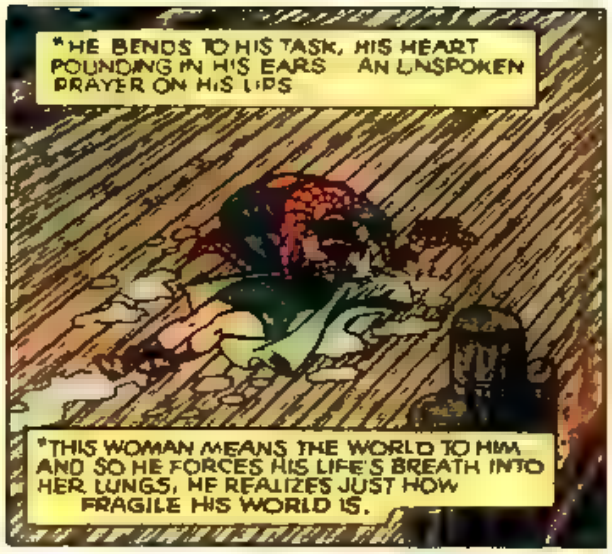

*AS A GLEEFUL GOBLIN CLIMBS EASILY INTO THE NIGHT.
A DARK SHAPE WRITHES BENEATH THE WATER, STRUGGLING FOR THE SURFACE.


FRESH AIR ≡ kaff kaff ≡ I LOVE YOU!
WE MADE IT GWENDY! WE MADE IT!
GWENDY?
GWEN!

SH SHE'S NOT BREATHING!
I'VE GOT TO GET HER TO SHORE!


THERE'S NO TIME TO CALL AN AMBULANCE!
GWEN'S LIFE DEPENDS ON ME!
SHE LOOKS SO STILL - SO LIFELESS!
NO! I CAN'T START THINKING LIKE THAT!


SHE'S GOT TO MAKE IT!
SHE'S GOT TO!


"HE BENDS TO HIS TASK, HIS HEART POUNDING IN HIS EARS AN UNSPOKEN PRAYER ON HIS LIPS
"THIS WOMAN MEANS THE WORLD TO HIM AND SO HE FORCES HIS LIFE'S BREATH INTO HER LUNGS, HE REALIZES JUST HOW FRAGILE HIS WORLD IS.

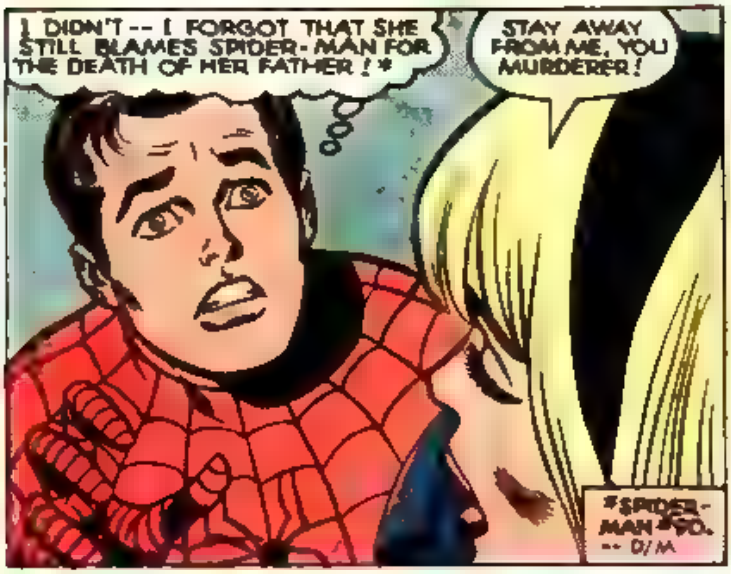
"SECONDS STRETCH LABORIOUSLY INTO MINUTES
"MINUTES LENGTHEN INTO AN ETERNITY
"HE WILL NOT ACCEPT DEFEAT.
"HE CANNOT ACCEPT DEFEAT

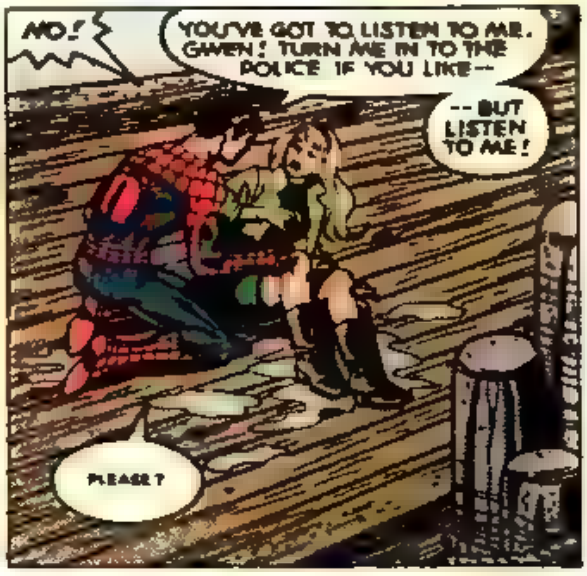
cough cough
PETER?

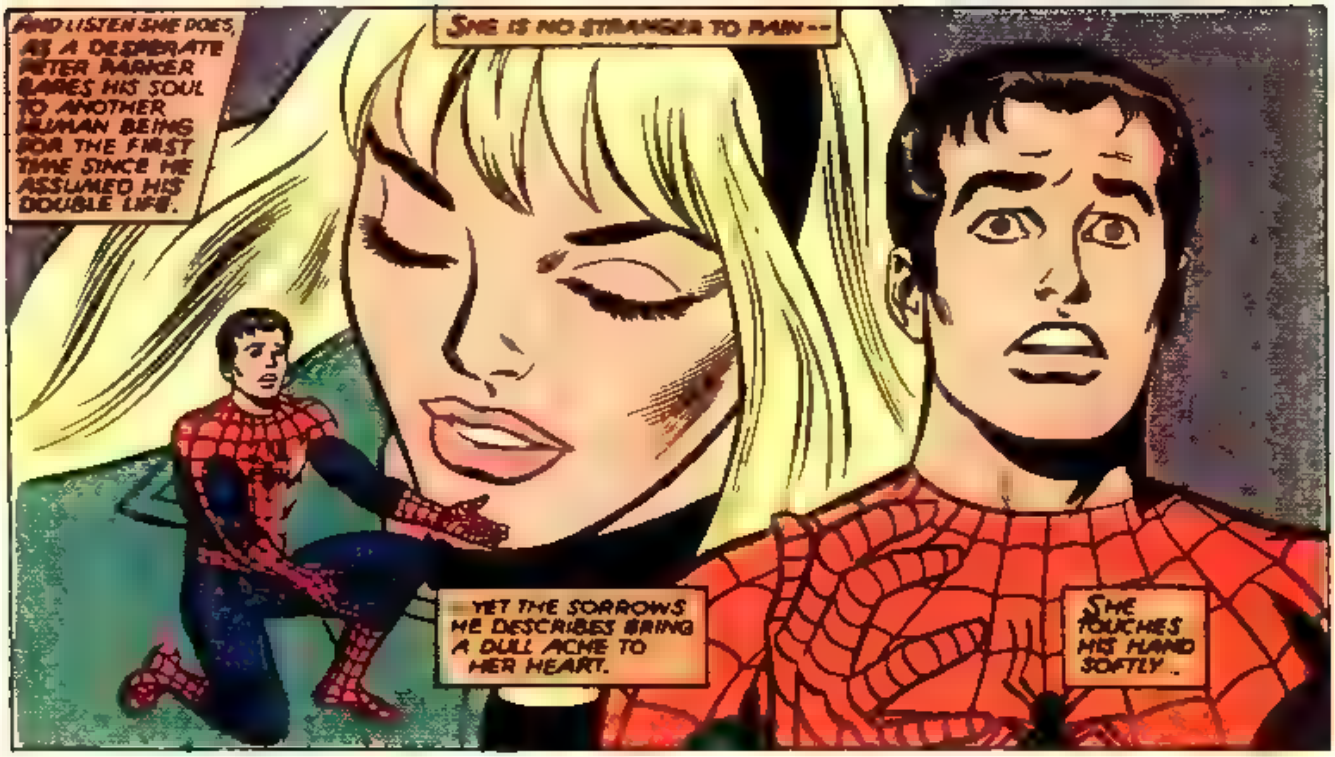
"HIS WORLD IS WHOLE ONCE MORE... AS HIS GENTLE SOBS ATTEST
THANK YOU.

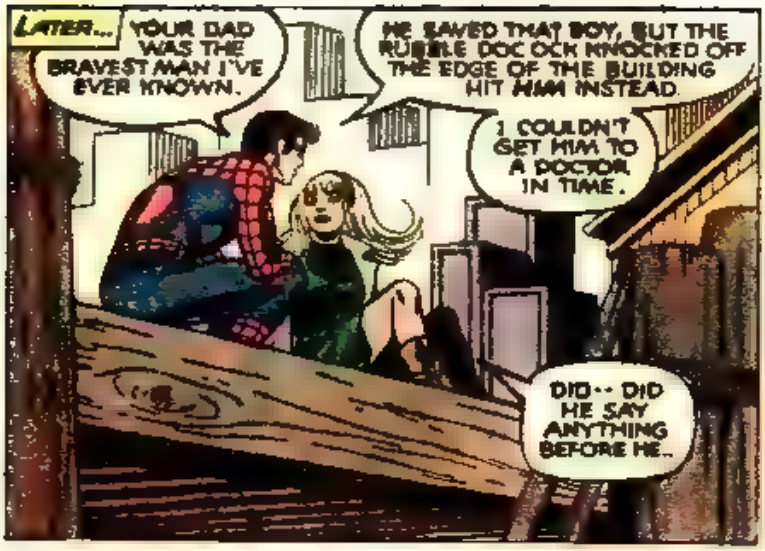
JUST RELAX, HONEY EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE OKAY NOW. I WON'T LET ANYBODY HURT YOU AGAIN
PETER ? WHAT...

OH MY GOD-- THAT COSTUME!
YOU-- YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN!
THE MAN WHO KILLED MY FATHER!


I DIDN'T -- I FORGOT THAT SHE STILL BLAMES SPIDER-MAN FOR THE DEATH OF HER FATHER ! *
STAY AWAY FROM ME, YOU MURDERER!
*SPIDER-MAN #90. -- D/M

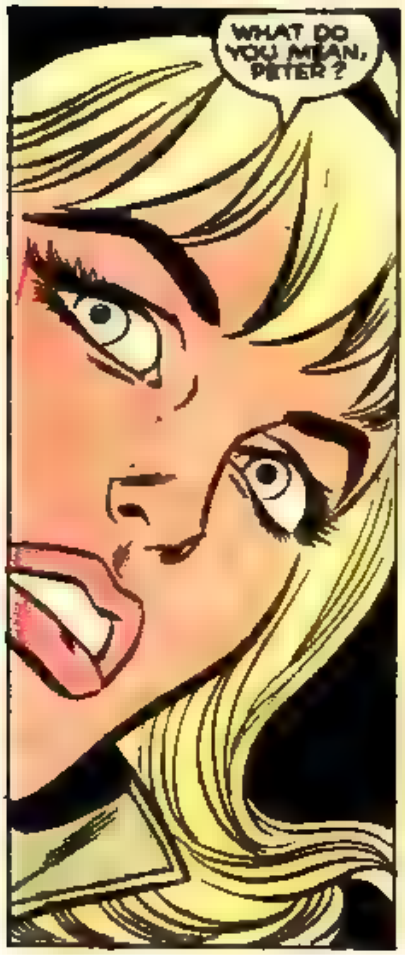

NO!
YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME. GWEN! TURN ME IN TO THE POLICE IF YOU LIKE--
-- BUT LISTEN TO ME!
PLEASE?


AND LISTEN SHE DOES, AS A DESPERATE PETER PARKER BARES HIS SOUL TO ANOTHER HUMAN BEING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE ASSUMED HIS DOUBLE LIFE.
SHE IS NO STRANGER TO PAIN--
YET THE SORROWS HE DESCRIBES BRING A DULL ACHE TO HER HEART.
SHE TOUCHES HIS HAND SOFTLY.


LATER...
YOUR DAD WAS THE BRAVEST MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN.
HE SAVED THAT BOY, BUT THE RUBBLE DOC OCK KNOCKED OFF THE EDGE OF THE BUILDING HIT HIM INSTEAD.
I COULDN'T GET HIM TO A DOCTOR IN TIME.
DID-- DID HE SAY ANYTHING BEFORE HE..

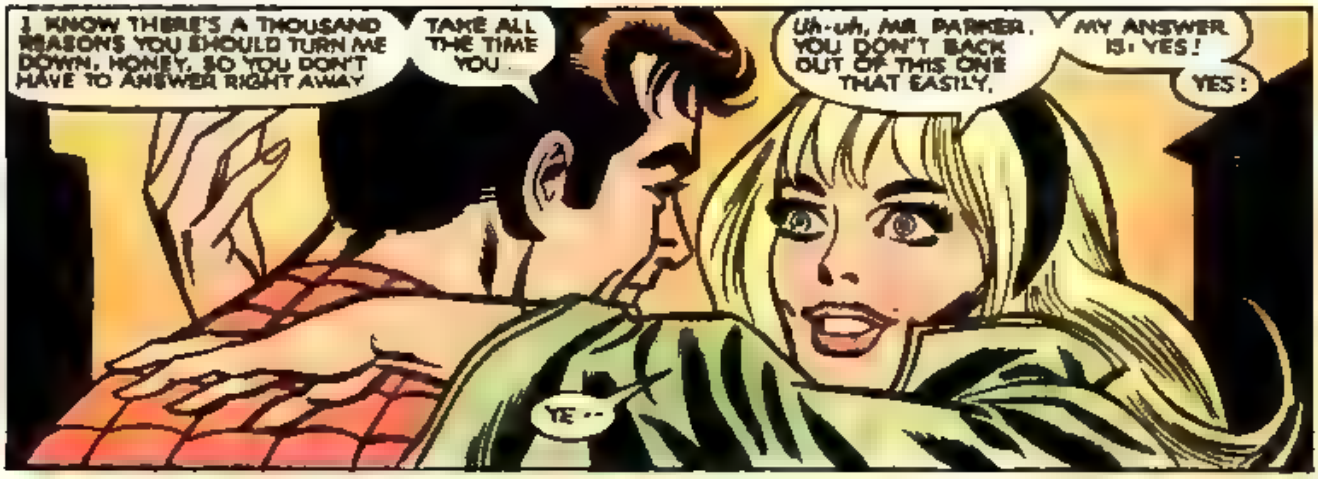
HE CALLED ME PETER.
BUT THAT MEANS...

HE KNEW WHO I WAS HE MUST HAVE KNOWN ALL ALONG, BUT HE NEVER GAVE ME AWAY
HE ASKED ME TO BE GOOD TO YOU. I PROMISED THAT I WOULD LOVE YOU--AND CHERISH YOU AS LONG AS I LIVED.
I HAVEN'T DONE TOO GOOD A JOB OF THAT UP TO NOW, BUT THAT'S ALL GOING TO CHANGE.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PETER?

I DO LOVE YOU, GWEN-- AND MAYBE A CONDEMNED, OUT-OF-THE WAY PIER ISN'T THE BEST PLACE TO ASK WHAT I SHOULD'VE ASKED A LONG TIME AGO, BUT--
THIS ISN'T GOING TOO WELL, IS IT?

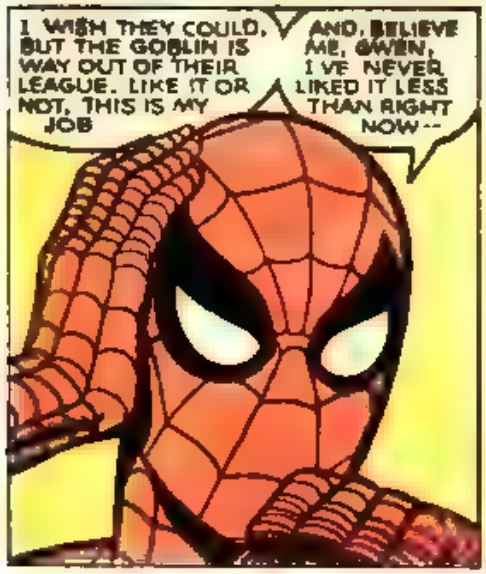
I GUESS WHAT I'M TRYING TO ASK YOU IN MY TYPICAL STUMBLE-MOUTHED FASHION IS:
Ms. STACY-- WILL YOU MARRY ME?


I KNOW THERE'S A THOUSAND REASONS YOU SHOULD TURN ME DOWN, HONEY, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER RIGHT AWAY
TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU
Uh-uh, MR. PARKER. YOU DON'T BACK OUT OF THIS ONE THAT EASILY.
MY ANSWER IS: YES!
YES!
YE--

Mmmmm.

WHAT'S THE MATTER, GWEN? YOU'RE SHAKING!
I JUST REMEMBERED, MR. OSBORN-- THE GREEN GOBLIN -- IS STILL ON THE LOOSE--
--AND HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE, TOO!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT GOBBY, PRETTY LADY. A CERTAIN WEB-SLINGING PAL OF OURS WILL SETTLE UP WITH HIM.
CAN'T THE POLICE HANDLE HIM?


I WISH THEY COULD. BUT THE GOBLIN IS WAY OUT OF THEIR LEAGUE. LIKE IT OR NOT, THIS IS MY JOB
AND, BELIEVE ME, GWEN, I'VE NEVER LIKED IT LESS THAN RIGHT NOW--

--WHEN I'M THIS CLOSE TO MARRYING THE BEST LADY IN THE WHOLE WORLD
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, PETER.
I'LL BE WAITING.

BY WAY OF CONTRAST, "WAITING" IS THE LAST THING ON THE TRIUMPHANT GREEN GOBLIN'S MIND.
FOR THAT VERY EVENING, IN SURROUNDINGS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN AUSPICIOUS, HE HAS CALLED...
A BUSINESS MEETING.
GOBLIN, YOU'RE CRAZY-AND A-HALF!

WHY SHOULD WE TURN OVER CONTROL OF OUR RACKETS TO YOU--
--A COSTUMED KOOK WHO COMES OUT OF HIDING ONCE A YEAR TO GET HIS BUTT KICKED BY SPIDER-MAN?
YOU'LL LIVE TO REGRET THOSE WORDS, MERRICK

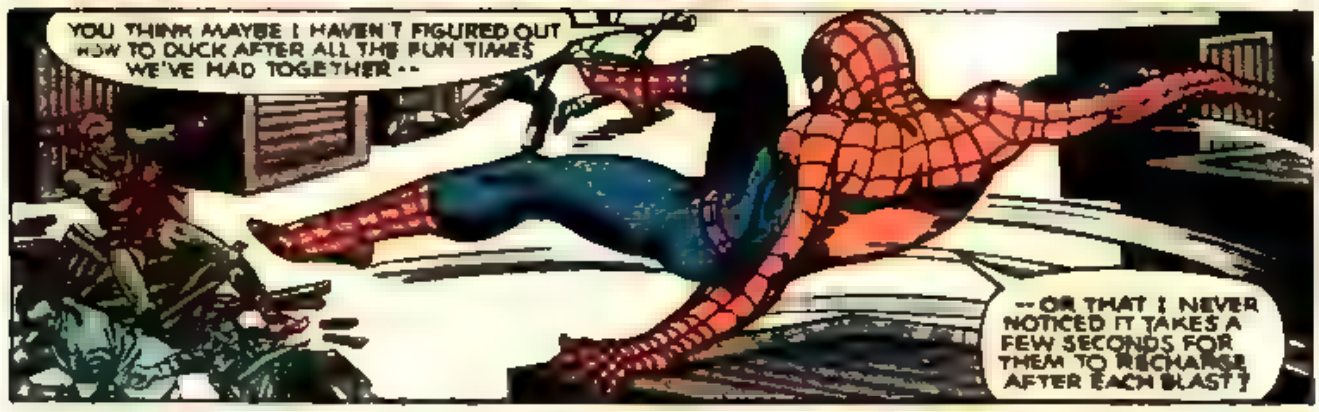
AS FOR SPIDER-MAN, THAT WALL-CRAWLING DOLT WON'T BE PLAGUING US ANY LONGER. HE'S FINISHED--
--AND IT WAS I WHO KILLED HIM!

THAT'S YOUR STORY, BIG SHOT, AND MAYBE IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH TO GET US DOWN HERE FOR A MEET-
--BUT IT'S GONNA HAVE TO GET A LOT BETTER BEFORE WE'D GO ALONG WITH THE KIND OF DEAL YOU'RE TALKING!
YEAH!
HOW 'BOUT SOME PROOF, GOBLIN?

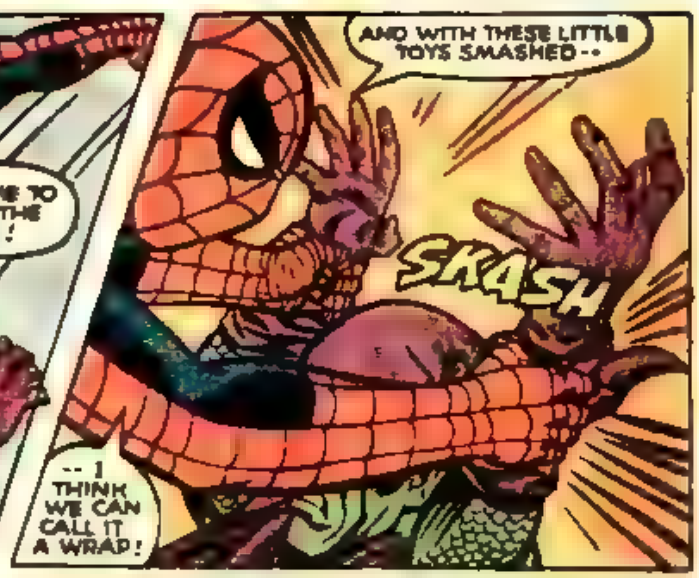
WILL THIS DO, BOYS?
CRIPES! I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WAS GONNA HAPPEN TONIGHT!
I KNEW IT!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T BE ALIVE!
NO ONE COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT FALL!
NO ONE!
Aw... YOU'RE JUST TRYIN' TO FLATTER ME!
ulp
WHUMPH!
UUNNGGHH!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, SPIDER-MAN!
YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR BIGGEST PROBLEM IS, CHUM? YOU'RE SO BLASTED PREDICTABLE!
EVERY TIME I KNOCK YOU DOWN, YOU TRY TO BROIL ME WITH THOSE SPARKLERS OF YOURS..


YOU THINK MAYBE I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT HOW TO DUCK AFTER ALL THE FUN TIMES WE'VE HAD TOGETHER--
--OR THAT I NEVER NOTICED IT TAKES A FEW SECONDS FOR THEM TO RECHARGE AFTER EACH BLAST?

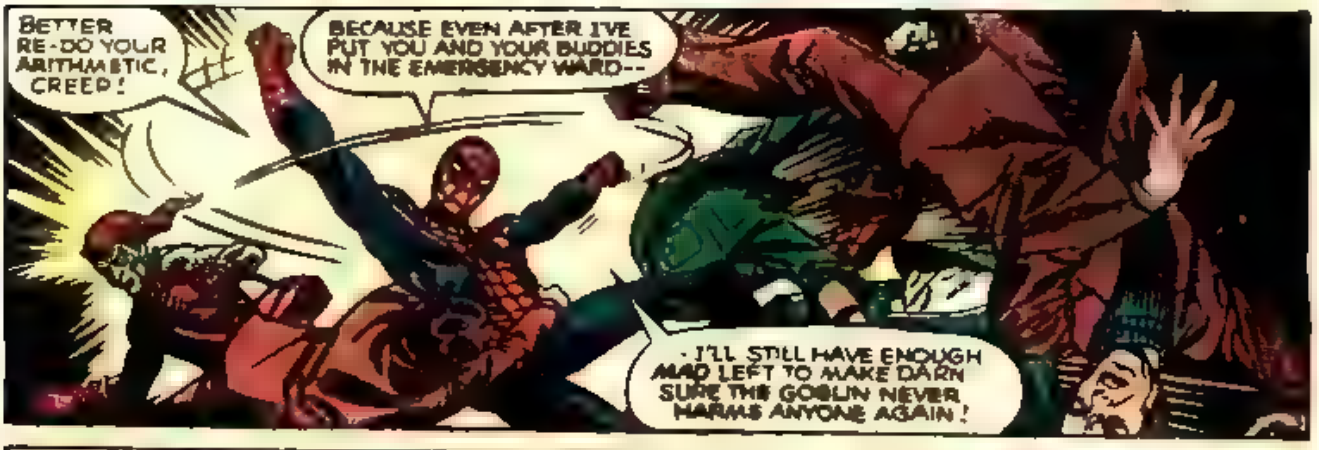
FACE IT, GOBBY! IF YOU CAN'T COME UP WITH A NEW ACT EVERY NOW AND THEN--
-IT'S TIME TO GET OFF THE STAGE!
OOOFF!


AND WITH THESE LITTLE TOYS SMASHED--
SKASH
--I THINK WE CAN CALL IT A WRAP!

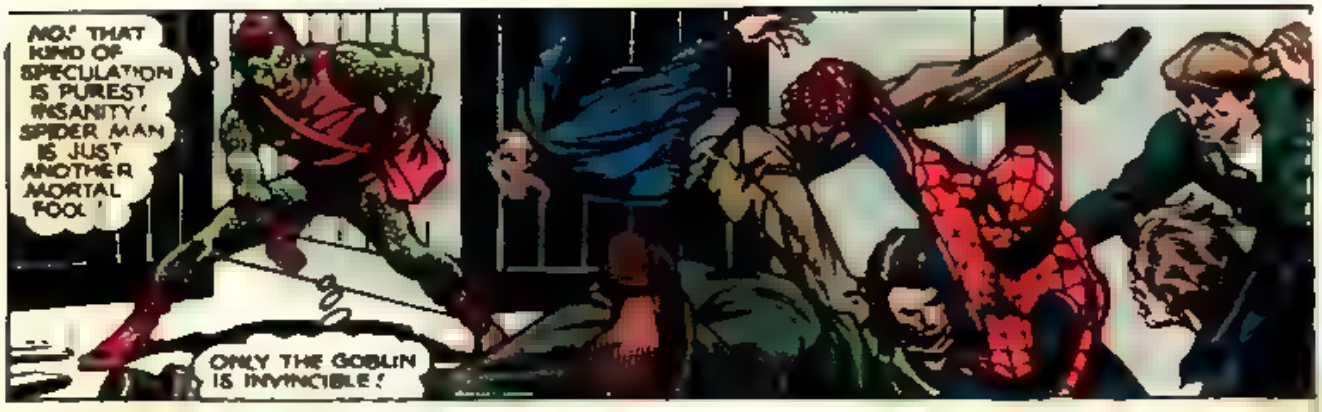
NOT SO FAST, SPIDER-MAN. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR OWN SAFETY -
- BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE YOU LOVE -
--WHEN THESE ASSOCIATES OF MINE LEARN YOUR TRUE IDENTITY!

YOU ARE POSITIVELY NOT FOR REAL!
AFTER ALL THE GRIEF YOU'VE ALREADY GIVEN ME, YOU HAVE THE GALL TO MAKE A THREAT LIKE THAT?!

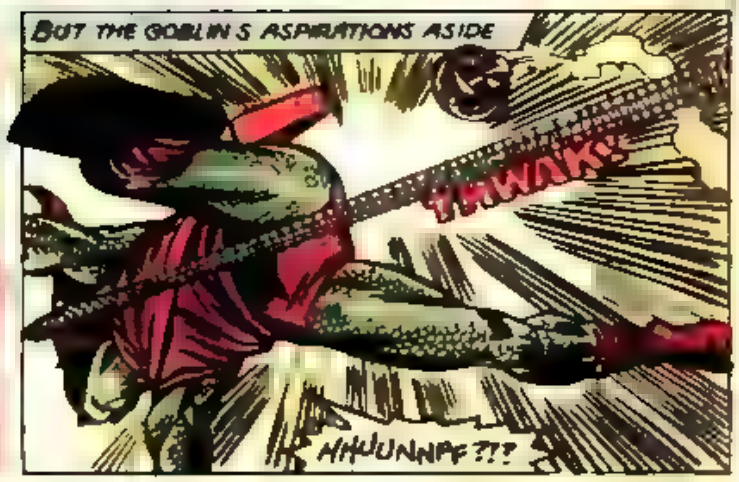
THANKS FOR REMINDING ME THAT YOU'RE EVERY BIT AS SCUMMY AS I WANT YOU TO BE, GOBLIN
IT MAKES IT THAT MUCH EASIER FOR ME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU PERMANENTLY!
NOT SO FAST, BOYCHIK! I DON'T GIVE TWO SHAKES ABOUT THE GOBLIN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER--
--BUT, IF HE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE, THEN IT'S WORTH OUR WHILE TO KEEP HIM HEALTHY!


BETTER RE-DO YOUR ARITHMETIC, CREEP!
BECAUSE EVEN AFTER I'VE PUT YOU AND YOUR BUDDIES IN THE EMERGENCY WARD--
--I'LL STILL HAVE ENOUGH MAD LEFT TO MAKE DARN SURE THE GOBLIN NEVER HARMS ANYONE AGAIN!

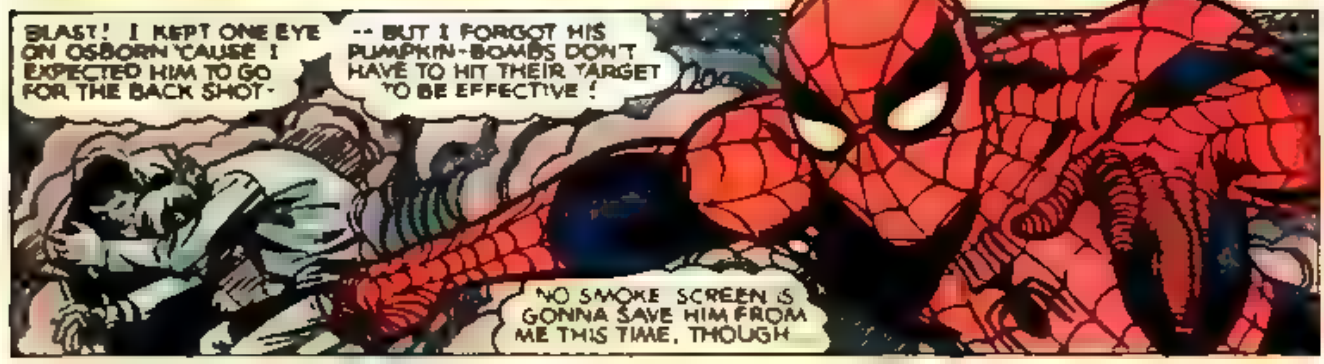
DO YOU HEAR ME, GOBLIN?!
IT'S UNCANNY! THOSE ARE THE DEADLIEST KILLERS IN THE CITY AND THEY'RE NOT EVEN SLOWING PARKER DOWN!
CAN NOTHING STOP HIM?

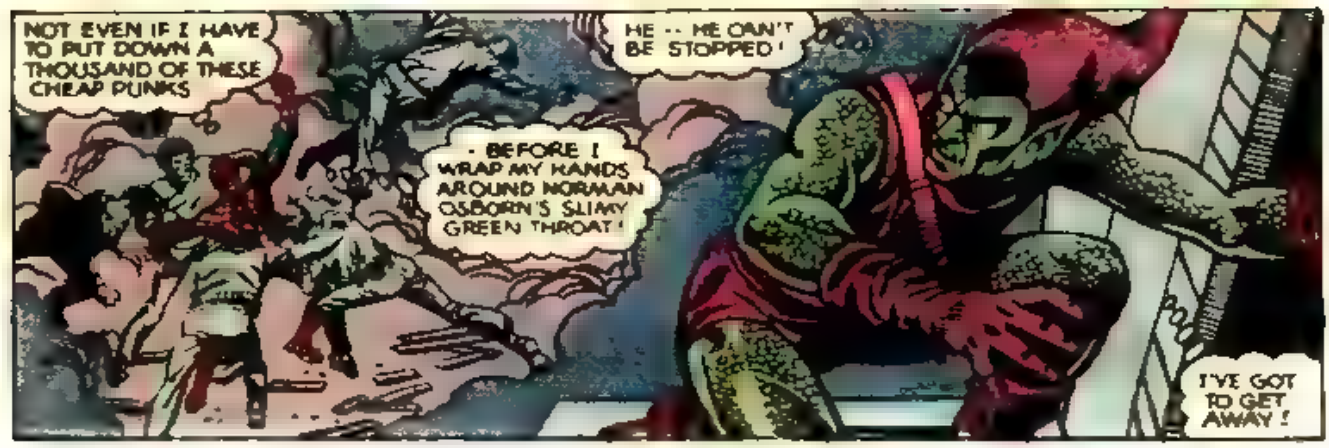

NO! THAT KIND OF SPECULATION IS PUREST INSANITY! SPIDER MAN IS JUST ANOTHER MORTAL FOOL!
ONLY THE GOBLIN IS INVINCIBLE!

AND NOW -- WHILE THAT UNWITTING INSECT IS OCCUPIED WITH MY WOULD BE ALLIES
I'LL PROVE IT!


BUT THE GOBLIN'S ASPIRATIONS ASIDE
YAWAK!
HHUUNNFF?!?

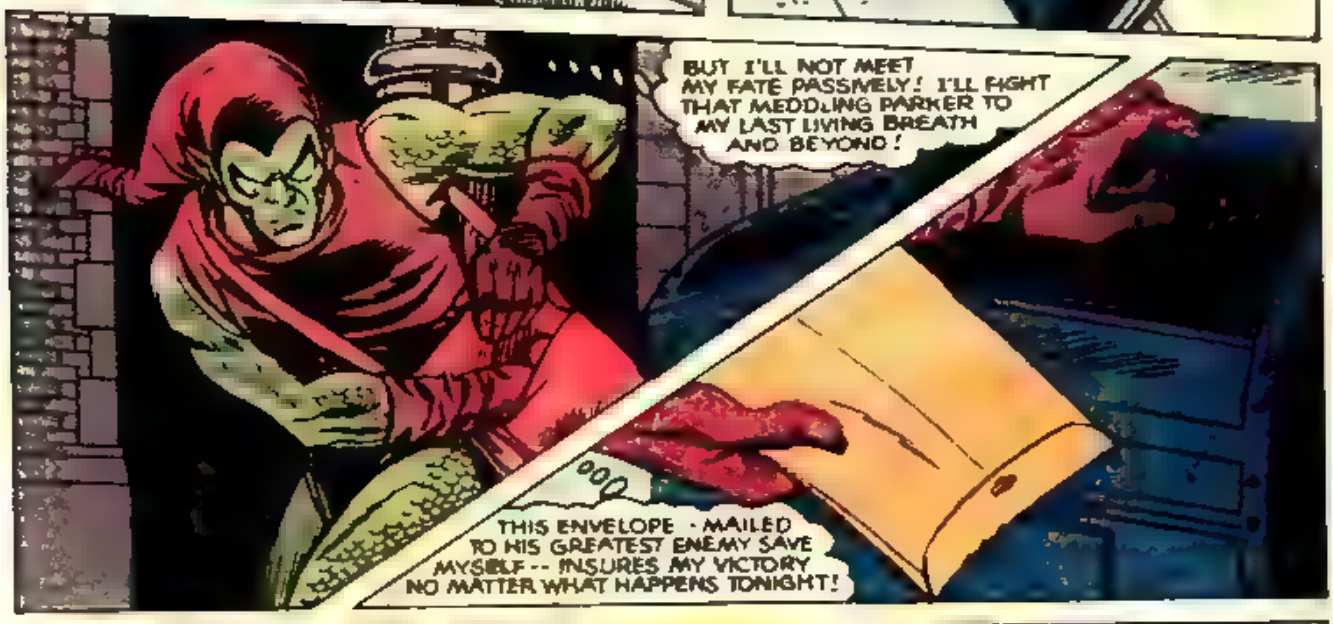
BWHOOM!


BLAST! I KEPT ONE EYE ON OSBORN 'CAUSE I EXPECTED HIM TO GO FOR THE BACK SHOT-
-- BUT I FORGOT HIS PUMPKIN-BOMBS DON'T HAVE TO HIT THEIR TARGET TO BE EFFECTIVE!
NO SMOKE SCREEN IS GONNA SAVE HIM FROM ME THIS TIME, THOUGH


NOT EVEN IF I HAVE TO PUT DOWN A THOUSAND OF THESE CHEAP PUNKS
HE -- HE CAN'T BE STOPPED!
- BEFORE I WRAP MY HANDS AROUND NORMAN OSBORN'S SLIMY GREEN THROAT!
I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!

BUT WHY PROLONG THIS AGONY ANY FURTHER? I CAN'T ESCAPE SPIDER-MAN... AND I WAS NEVER MEANT TO!
I SEE IT ALL SO VERY CLEARLY NOW!

THE GODS RAISED ME TO GREATNESS - REMOVED ME FROM THE SHACKLES OF MY WEAKER SELF - ONLY TO DASH MY DREAMS OF CONQUEST TO THE DUST!
THE MIGHTY GREEN GOBLIN! AN UNWITTING FOIL IN A GHASTLY COSMIC JEST!


BUT I'LL NOT MEET MY FATE PASSIVELY! I'LL FIGHT THAT MEDDLING PARKER TO MY LAST LIVING BREATH AND BEYOND!
THIS ENVELOPE - MAILED TO HIS GREATEST ENEMY SAVE MYSELF -- INSURES MY VICTORY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TONIGHT!

KILL ME IF YOU CAN, SPIDER-MAN!
VENGEANCE WILL STILL BE MINE

MEANWHILE.
SO MUCH FOR MINDLESS RAGE. THE GOBLIN MADE HIS ESCAPE WHILE I WASTED TIME WITH THESE CREEPS
BUT MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST. IF I HAD KILLED OSBORN, I WOULDN'T BE ANY BETTER THAN HE IS
AND I'VE GOT TO BE BETTER THAN THAT--
--FOR GWEN

ON THE OTHER HAND, I'VE STILL GOT TO FIND OSBORN BEFORE HE CARRIES OUT HIS THREAT TO EXPOSE MY IDENTITY

WHICH BRINGS ME FULL CIRCLE TO A PROBLEM I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT

NAMELY HOW DO I PROTECT THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT FROM A MANIAC LIKE THE GREEN GOBLIN WHEN HE'S THE FATHER OF MY BEST FRIEND?

IT IS NOT MUCH LATER WHEN THE FIRST RAYS OF THE DAWN PENETRATE THE LUXURIOUS TOWNHOUSE OF NORMAN OSBORN

INSIDE HIS SON HAS JUST LEARNED THE TERRIFYING SECRET OF THE GREEN GOBLIN

AND NOW, HIS SOUL SHAKEN TO THE CORE, HARRY OSBORN TRIES SO HARD TO UNDERSTAND

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, HARRY. SPIDER-MAN WILL BE HERE BEFORE LONG AND WE HAVE TO BE READY FOR HIM

PARKER MUST DIE -- OR WE'LL NEVER BE SAFE!

IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THAT WAY, DAD!

EVEN IF HE IS WHO YOU SAY HE IS, PETER PARKER IS STILL OUR FRIEND! I KNOW HE WON'T TRY TO HURT US--

-- IF ONLY YOU'LL GIVE UP BEING THE GOBLIN!

YOU SPINELESS JELLYFISH! I GIVE YOU THE CHANCE TO STAND BESIDE ME AGAINST MY MOST HATED FOE

- TO SHARE IN THE ALMOST LIMITLESS POWER OF THE GREEN GOBLIN

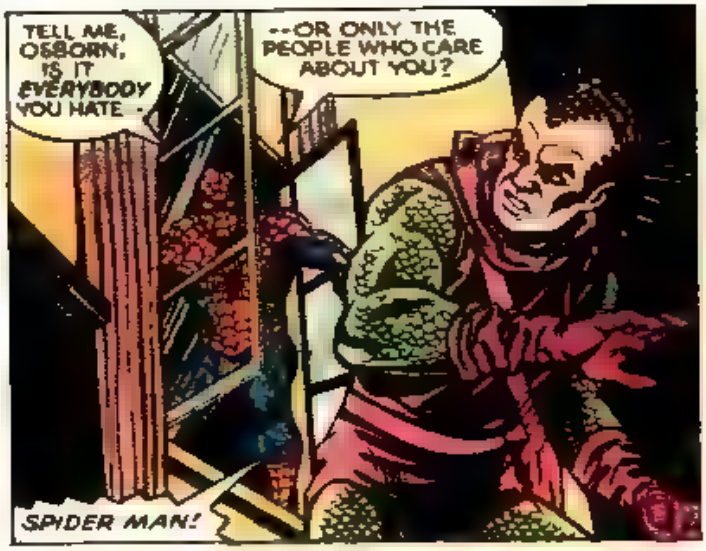
- AND YOU WANT ME TO GIVE IT UP?!

PLEASE, DAD! I ONLY WANT TO-

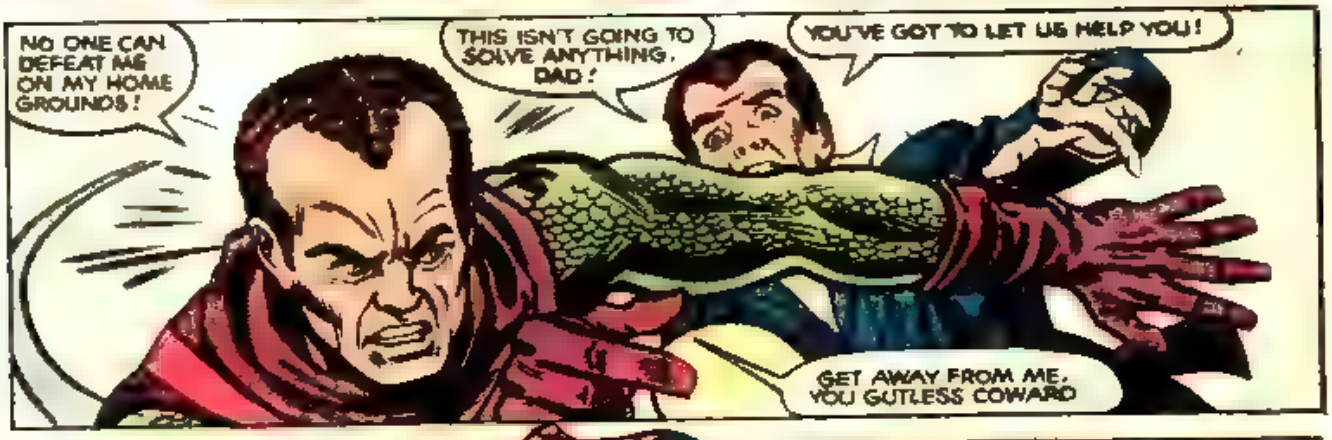
SHUT UP, YOU SNIVELLING WEAKLING!

WOK!

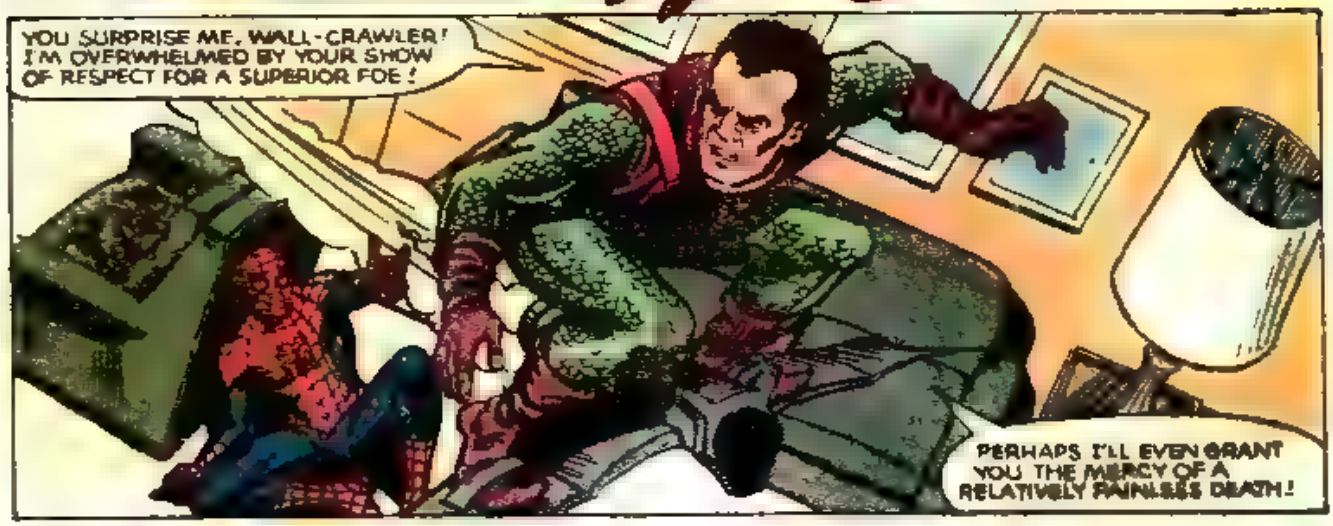
AGGHH!


TELL ME, OSBORN, IS IT EVERYBODY YOU HATE --
--OR ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU?
SPIDER MAN!

CONGRATULATIONS, NORMIE! YOU JUST PASSED RECOGNITION 101!
YOU WERE A FOOL TO COME HERE, PARKER!


NO ONE CAN DEFEAT ME ON MY HOME GROUNDS!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO SOLVE ANYTHING, DAD!
YOU'VE GOT TO LET US HELP YOU!
GET AWAY FROM ME, YOU GUTLESS COWARD

--OR, YOU'LL DIE WITH YOUR MEDDLING FRIEND!
ZASH
STAY BACK, HARRY! WHEN YOUR FATHER IS THE GOBLIN, HE'S MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE!

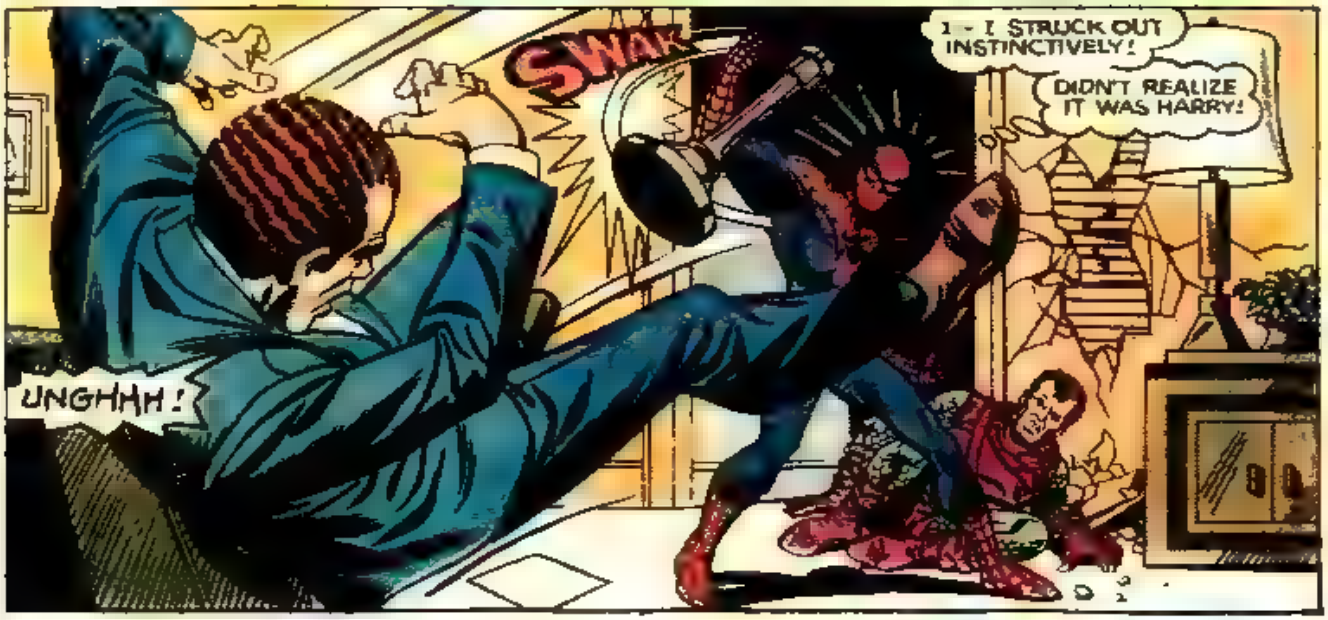

YOU SURPRISE ME, WALL-CRAWLER! I'M OVERWHELMED BY YOUR SHOW OF RESPECT FOR A SUPERIOR FOE!
PERHAPS I'LL EVEN GRANT YOU THE MERCY OF A RELATIVELY PAINLESS DEATH!

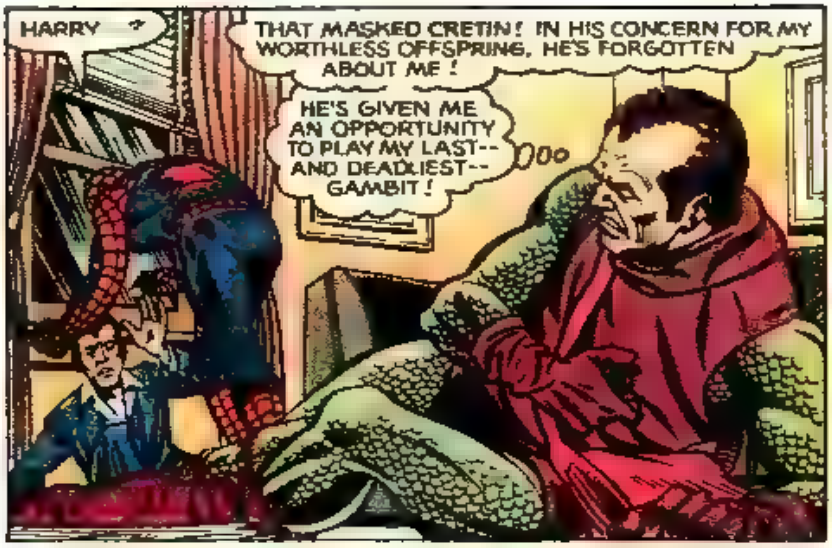
OSBORN, YOU ARE ELEVEN KINDS OF CRAZY-
NOOOOO!
AND ALL OF 'EM ARE WEARIN' PRETTY THIN!

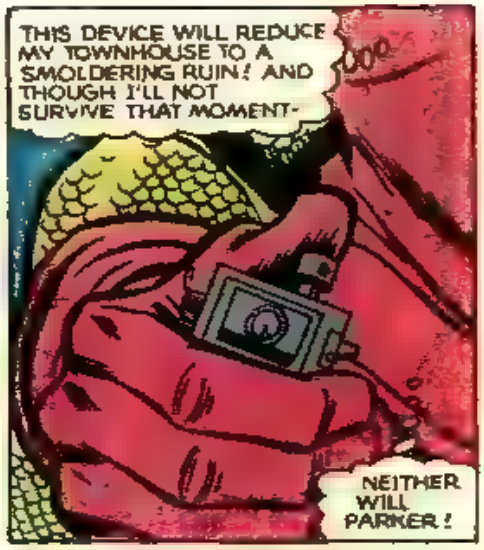
SPAM

ON YOUR FEET, GOBLIN
THIS IS ONE TIME YOU'RE NOT ESCAPING.
THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS.
I WON'T LET YOU KILL HIM!

I DON'T CARE WHAT HE'S DONE!
WHA-?


SWAK
I - I STRUCK OUT INSTINCTIVELY!
DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS HARRY!
UNGHHH!


HARRY ?
THAT MASKED CRETIN! IN HIS CONCERN FOR MY WORTHLESS OFFSPRING, HE'S FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME!
HE'S GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY MY LAST-- AND DEADLIEST-- GAMBIT!

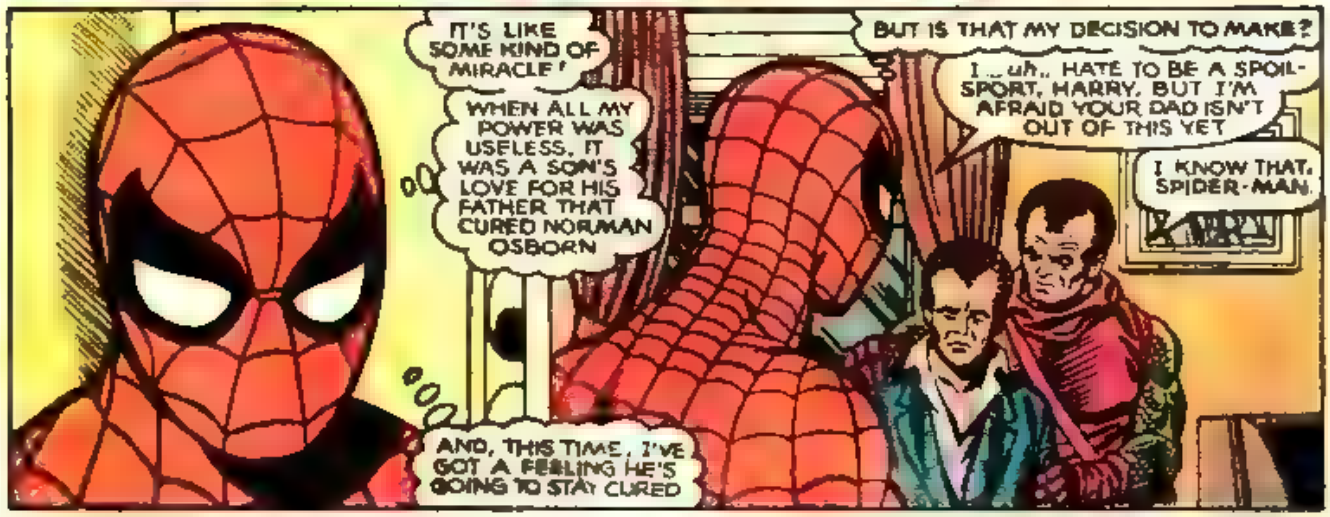

THIS DEVICE WILL REDUCE MY TOWNHOUSE TO A SMOLDERING RUIN! AND THOUGH I'LL NOT SURVIVE THAT MOMENT-
NEITHER WILL PARKER!

GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME, SPIDER-MAN!
MY SON-- STANDING UP TO PARKER?!
HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE!

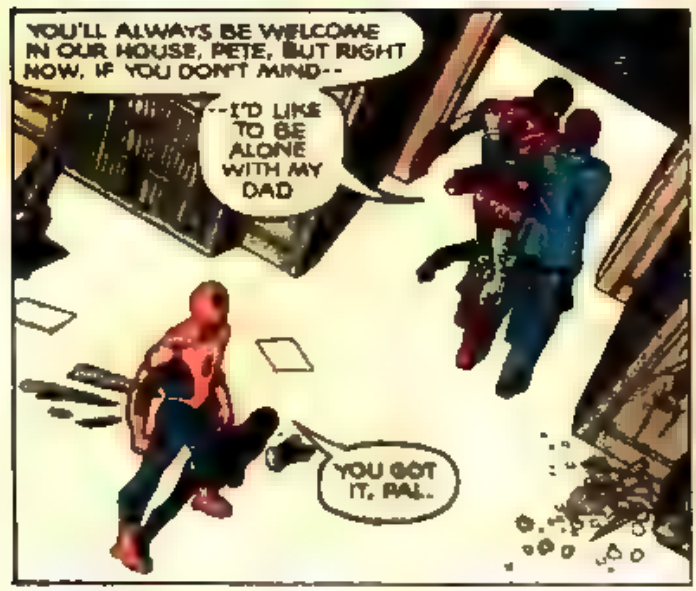
DON'T YOU SEE? HE'S MY FATHER-- THE ONLY WAY YOU'RE GONNA GET TO HIM AGAIN IS OVER MY DEAD BODY!
HARRY, PLEASE ..!
HE'S RISKING HIS LIFE FOR ME!

FOR ME!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
HARRY?

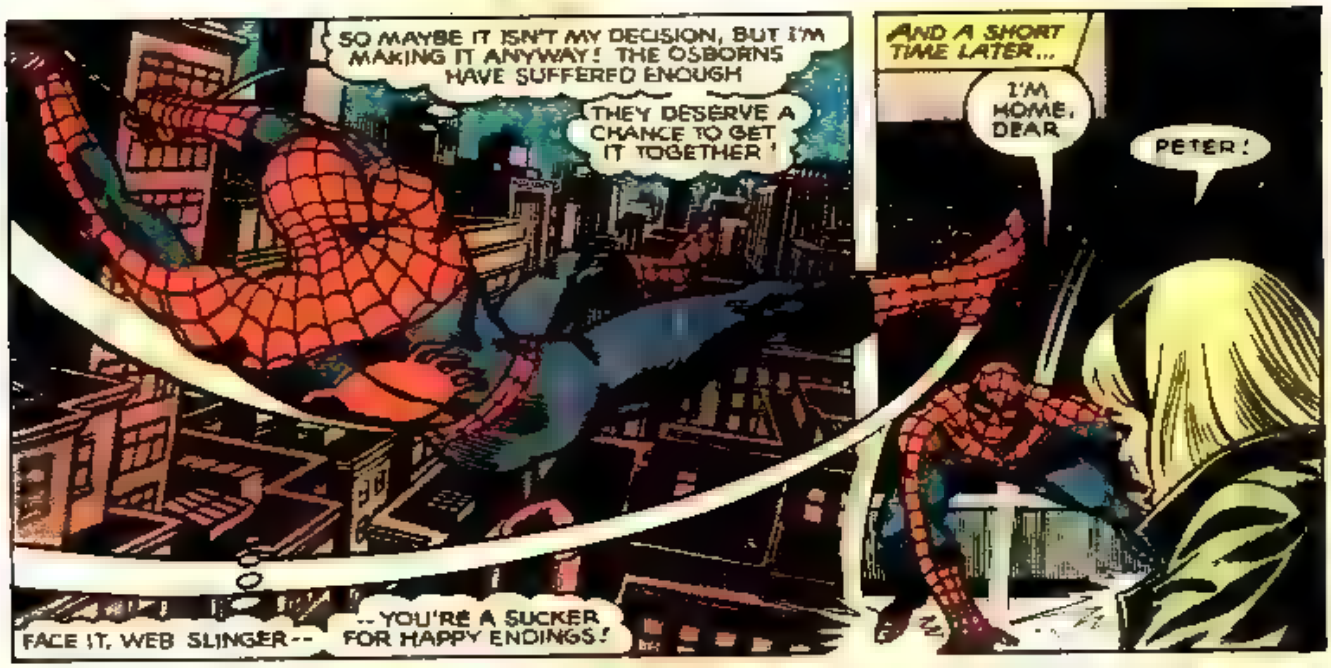
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? OSBORN'S BACK TO NORMAL, BUT HE REMEMBERS BEING THE GREEN GOBLIN!
DAD! IT'S YOU! IT'S REALLY YOU!
AFTER EVERYTHING I'VE SAID-- EVERYTHING I'VE DONE AS THE GOBLIN - YOU STUCK BY ME WHEN IT MATTERED MOST!
YOU-- YOU'RE THE BRAVEST SON A MAN COULD EVER ASK FOR, HARRY!

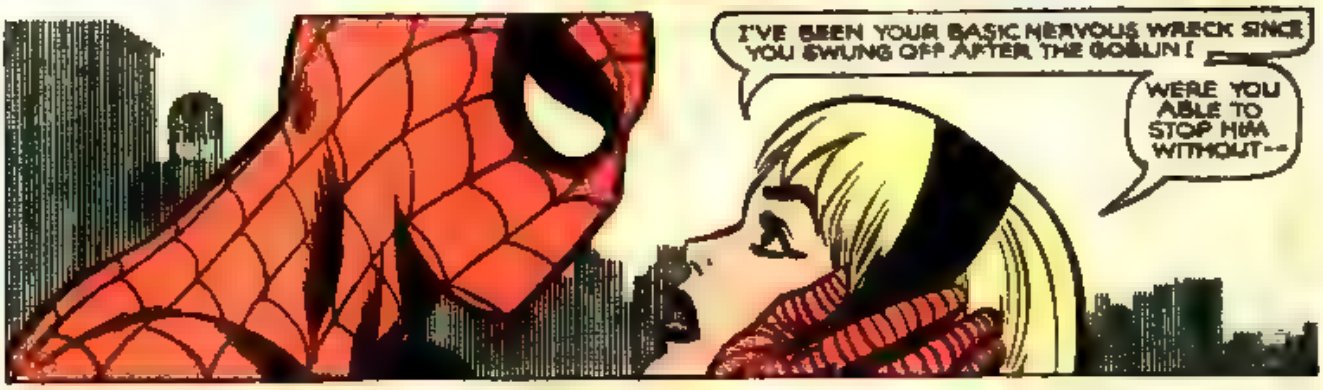

IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF MIRACLE!
WHEN ALL MY POWER WAS USELESS, IT WAS A SON'S LOVE FOR HIS FATHER THAT CURED NORMAN OSBORN
AND, THIS TIME, I'VE GOT A FEELING HE'S GOING TO STAY CURED
BUT IS THAT MY DECISION TO MAKE?
I ...uh.. HATE TO BE A SPOILSPORT, HARRY, BUT I'M AFRAID YOUR DAD ISN'T OUT OF THIS YET
I KNOW THAT, SPIDER-MAN.

WE KNOW THAT, PETE, BUT WE NEED A LITTLE TIME TO KIND OF SORT THINGS OUT.
YOU'LL NEVER REGRET GIVING US THAT TIME
YOU'VE GOT MY WORD ON IT
SOB


YOU'LL ALWAYS BE WELCOME IN OUR HOUSE, PETE, BUT RIGHT NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND--
--I'D LIKE TO BE ALONE WITH MY DAD
YOU GOT IT, PAL.

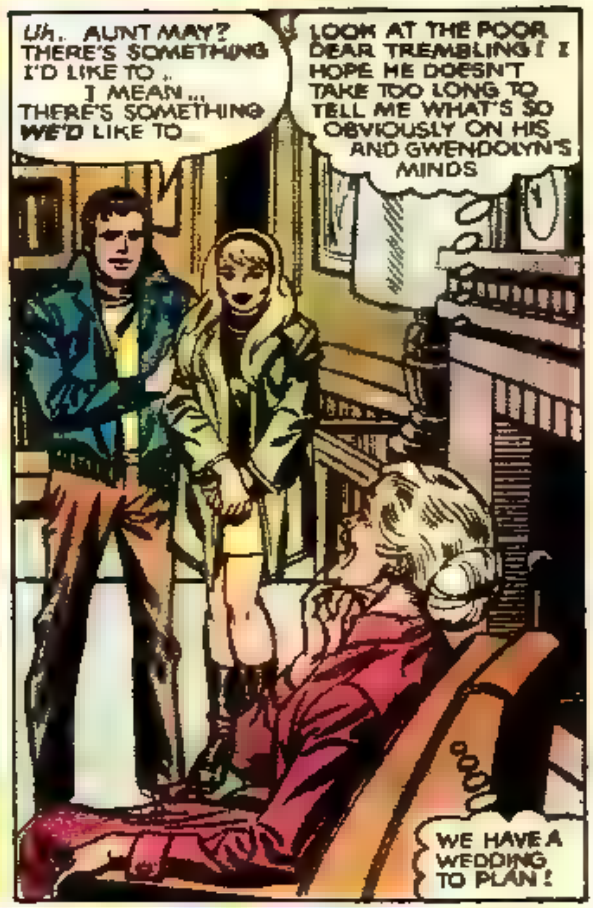
FUNNY, I GUESS I WASN'T TOO DIFFERENT FROM THE GOBLIN IN ONE RESPECT.
I FELT SUPERIOR TO HARRY BECAUSE I HAD TO WORK FOR THE THINGS HE WAS GIVEN. I THOUGHT HIS EASY LIFE MADE HIM WEAK AND NOW..
I HOPE AND PRAY I CAN FIND HIS KIND OF STRENGTH IF THE NEED EVER ARISES.

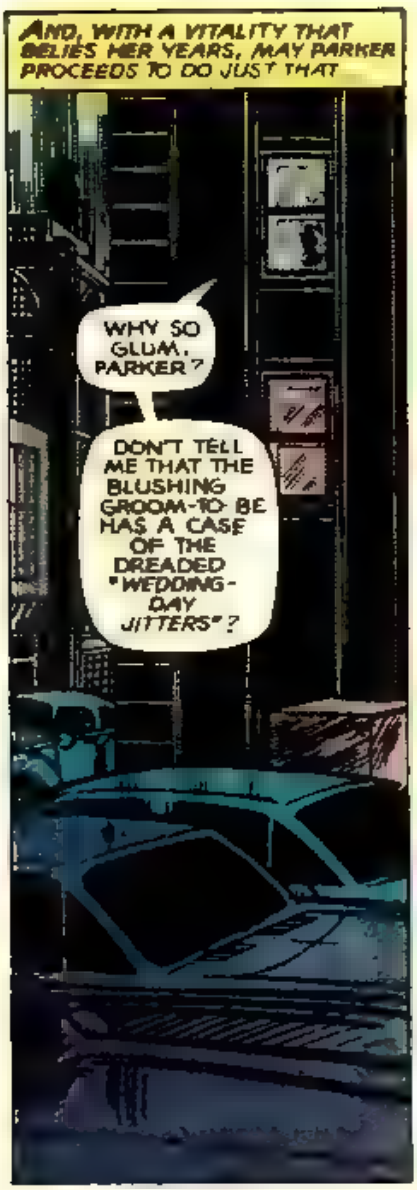

SO MAYBE IT ISN'T MY DECISION, BUT I'M MAKING IT ANYWAY! THE OSBORNS HAVE SUFFERED ENOUGH
THEY DESERVE A CHANCE TO GET IT TOGETHER!
FACE IT, WEB SLINGER--
--YOU'RE A SUCKER FOR HAPPY ENDINGS!
AND A SHORT TIME LATER...
I'M HOME, DEAR
PETER!

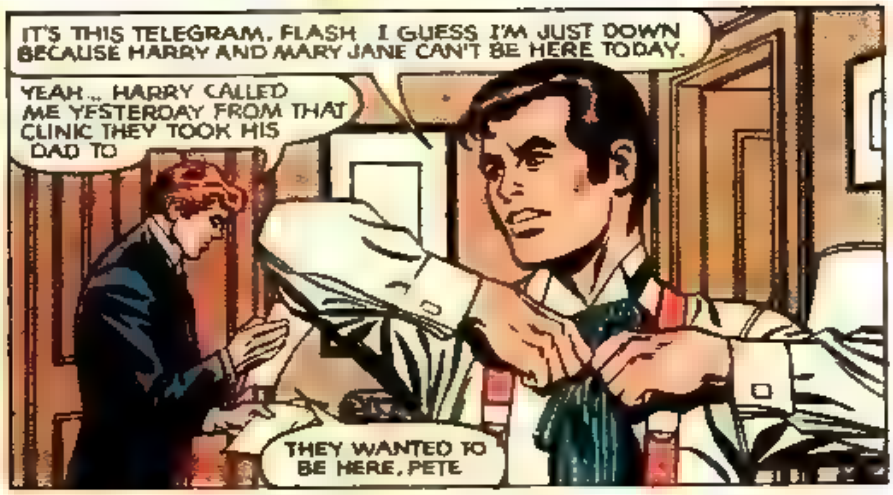

I'VE BEEN YOUR BASIC NERVOUS WRECK SINCE YOU SWUNG OFF AFTER THE GOBLIN!
WERE YOU ABLE TO STOP HIM WITHOUT--

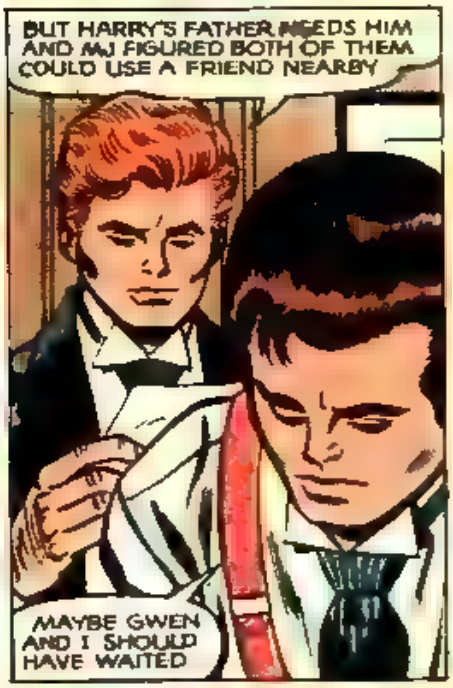
RELAX, HONEY. THE GREEN GOBLIN WILL NEVER HURT ANYBODY EVER AGAIN--
--AND NORMAN OSBORN IS JUST FINE, TOO!
THEN THERE ISN'T ANYTHING TO PREVENT US FROM GETTING MARRIED, IS THERE, Mr PARKER?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, LOVE OF MY LIFE, THERE IS ONE MORE DANGEROUS JOB WE HAVE TO HANDLE FIRST...

"...AND I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU
"...JUST THINKING ABOUT IT HAS ME SCARED RIGHT DOWN TO MY SOCKS!"


Uh... AUNT MAY? THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO... I MEAN... THERE'S SOMETHING WE'D LIKE TO...
LOOK AT THE POOR DEAR TREMBLING! I HOPE HE DOESN'T TAKE TOO LONG TO TELL ME WHAT'S SO OBVIOUSLY ON HIS AND GWENDOLYN'S MINDS
WE HAVE A WEDDING TO PLAN!


AND, WITH A VITALITY THAT BELIES HER YEARS, MAY PARKER PROCEEDS TO DO JUST THAT
WHY SO GLUM, PARKER?
DON'T TELL ME THAT THE BLUSHING GROOM-TO-BE HAS A CASE OF THE DREADED "WEDDING-DAY JITTERS"?


IT'S THIS TELEGRAM, FLASH. I GUESS I'M JUST DOWN BECAUSE HARRY AND MARY JANE CAN'T BE HERE TODAY.
YEAH... HARRY CALLED ME YESTERDAY FROM THAT CLINIC THEY TOOK HIS DAD TO
THEY WANTED TO BE HERE, PETE

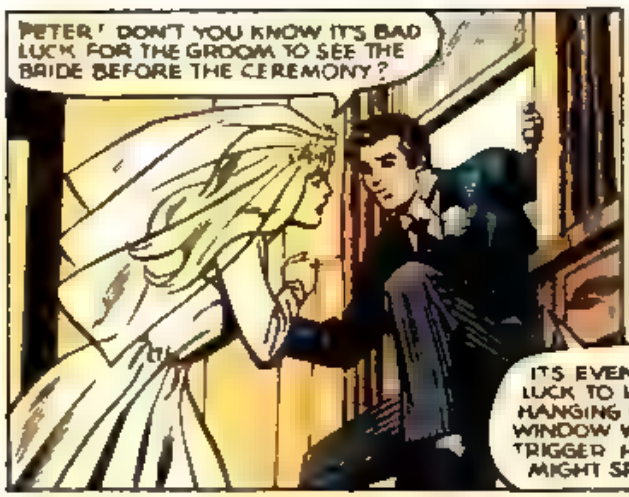

BUT HARRY'S FATHER NEEDS HIM AND MJ FIGURED BOTH OF THEM COULD USE A FRIEND NEARBY
MAYBE GWEN AND I SHOULD HAVE WAITED

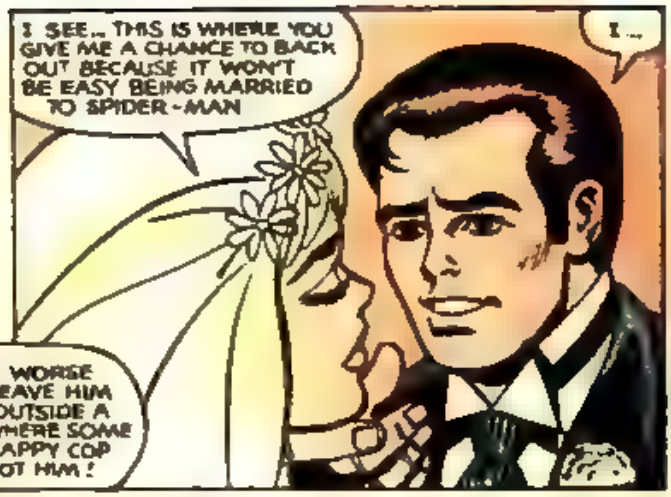
AND MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE ONE MORE SHOT AT CONVINCING A CERTAIN GORGEOUS BLONDE THAT JOCKS MAKE BETTER HUSBANDS THAN PUNY BIO-CHEM MAJORS
HEY! I WAS ONLY KIDDING--

— UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU DON'T GET YOUR TUXEDOED BUTT DOWN TO THAT CHAPEL IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES!
I'M WARNING YOU NOW, THOMPSON!

AFTER THE CEREMONY, I'M GONNA HAVE MY WIFE DUSTED FOR FINGERPRINTS!

SECONDS LATER.
I SHOULD HEAD DOWN STAIRS, BUT I HAVE TO TALK TO GWEN ONE MORE TIME BEFORE THE CEREMONY
SHE SHOULD BE ALONE NOW.

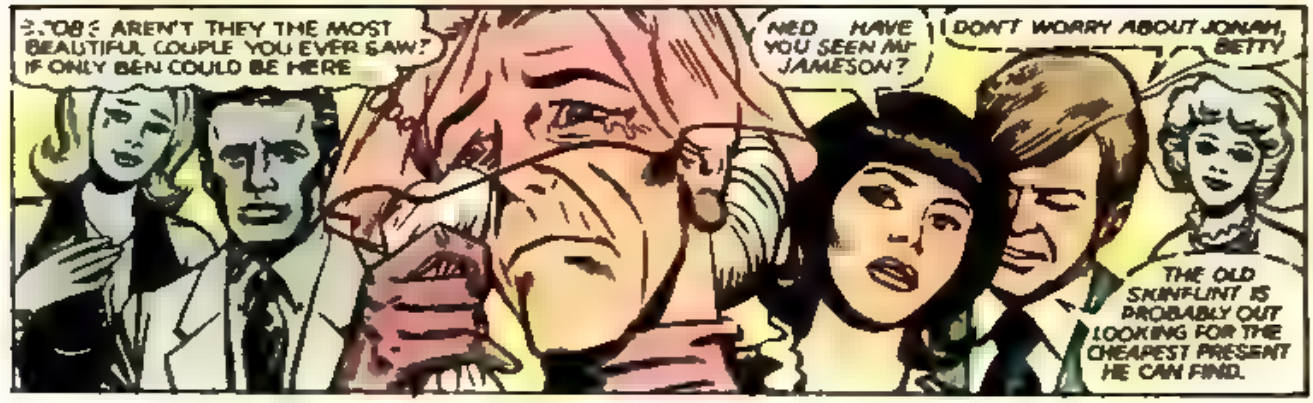

PETER! DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S BAD LUCK FOR THE GROOM TO SEE THE BRIDE BEFORE THE CEREMONY?
IT'S EVEN WORSE LUCK TO LEAVE HIM HANGING OUTSIDE A WINDOW WHERE SOME TRIGGER HAPPY COP MIGHT SPOT HIM!


I SEE... THIS IS WHERE YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE TO BACK OUT BECAUSE IT WON'T BE EASY BEING MARRIED TO SPIDER-MAN
I...

LISTEN TO ME PETER PARKER
WHEN WE GO DOWNSTAIRS IN A FEW MINUTES, THAT'S FOR EVERYBODY ELSE. THIS IS FOR US

I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH.
AND I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU VERY HAPPY FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
GWEN...
HUSH NOW, MAN OF MINE, AND GET OUT OF HERE. I'VE GOT A WEDDING TO GET READY FOR!

AND SO... IN A WORD, FRIEND. WOW
LOOK AT JOE ROBERTSON BEAM! IT'S AS IF IT WERE HIS OWN DAUGHTER HE WAS GIVING AWAY TODAY!
YOU KNOW IT, Mr T


AREN'T THEY THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COUPLE YOU EVER SAW? IF ONLY BEN COULD BE HERE
NED HAVE YOU SEEN Mr JAMESON?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT JONAH, BETTY
THE OLD SKINFLINT IS PROBABLY OUT LOOKING FOR THE CHEAPEST PRESENT HE CAN FIND.

AND THEN... WITH WORDS THAT HAVE EVER EXPRESSED, FAITHFULLY IF NOT ADEQUATELY, THE SANCTITY OF THIS MOMENT.

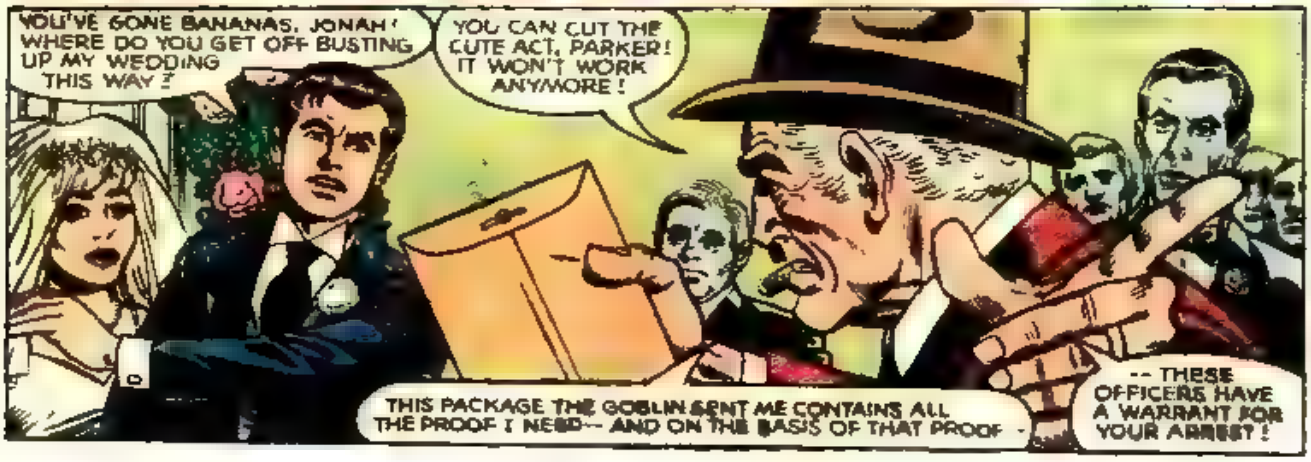
...THEY ARE JOINED IN HOLY WEDLOCK

THEY HAVE SHARED MUCH OF THE HARDSHIP TO WHICH MANKIND HAS ALWAYS BEEN HEIR.

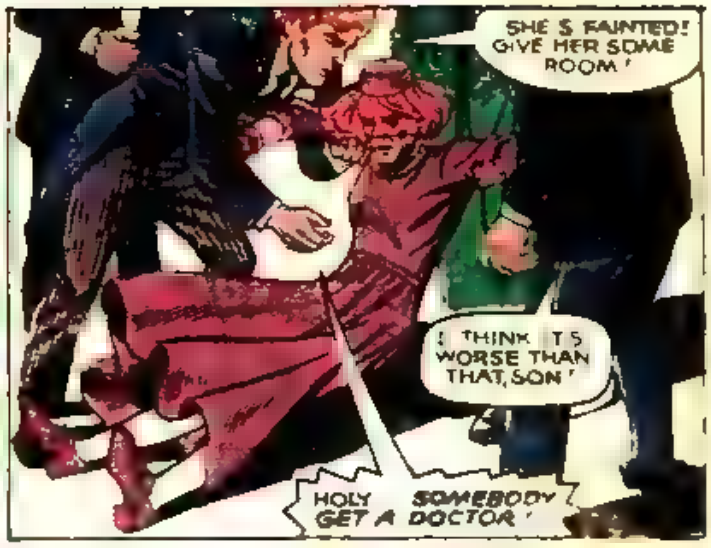
NOW THEY SHARE A HAPPINESS THAT REDUCES ANY AND ALL SUCH SORROWS TO INSIGNIFICANCE.

A HAPPINESS THAT IS AS TOTAL

AS IT IS TRAGICALLY SHORT-LIVED!



MY PETER? THAT AWFUL SPIDER-MAN?
UUNNH
IT CAN'T BE! IT JUST CAN'T B-


SHE'S FAINTED! GIVE HER SOME ROOM!
I THINK IT'S WORSE THAN THAT, SON!
HOLY SOMEBODY GET A DOCTOR!

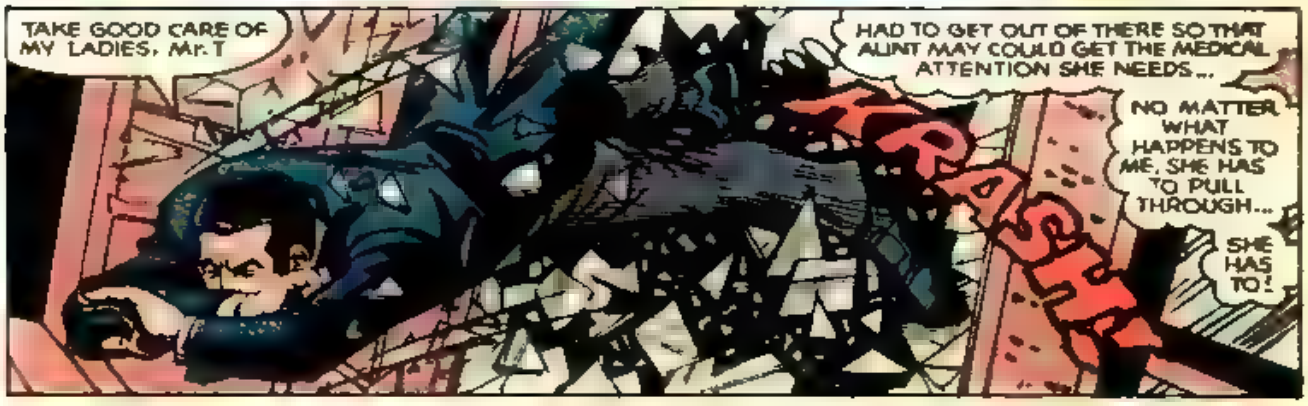
AUNT MAY!
LOOK OUT, SARGE! HE'S GONNA
WHOOF!
SHEESH! HE TOSSED HEM ASIDE LIKE HE-WERE PAPER DOLLS!

DRAW YOUR WEAPON INGERSOL! THIS GUY IS AS DANGEROUS AS JAMESON CLAIMED!
HEY! COME ON! EASY ON THE TRIGGER FINGERS!
GIVE THE MAN A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN!

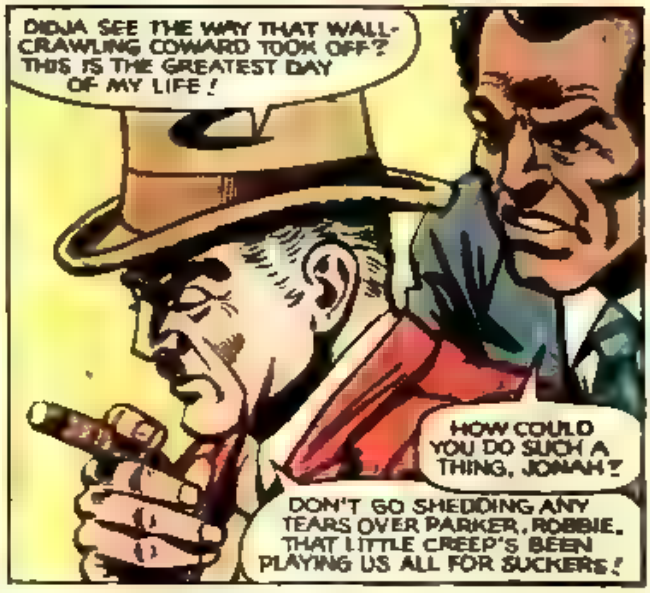
PETE YOU CAN'T LET THOSE GUN HAPPY CLOWNS START SHOOTING IN HERE! SOMEBODY'LL GET KILLED!
YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE YOURSELF UP!

GIVE MYSELF UP?!

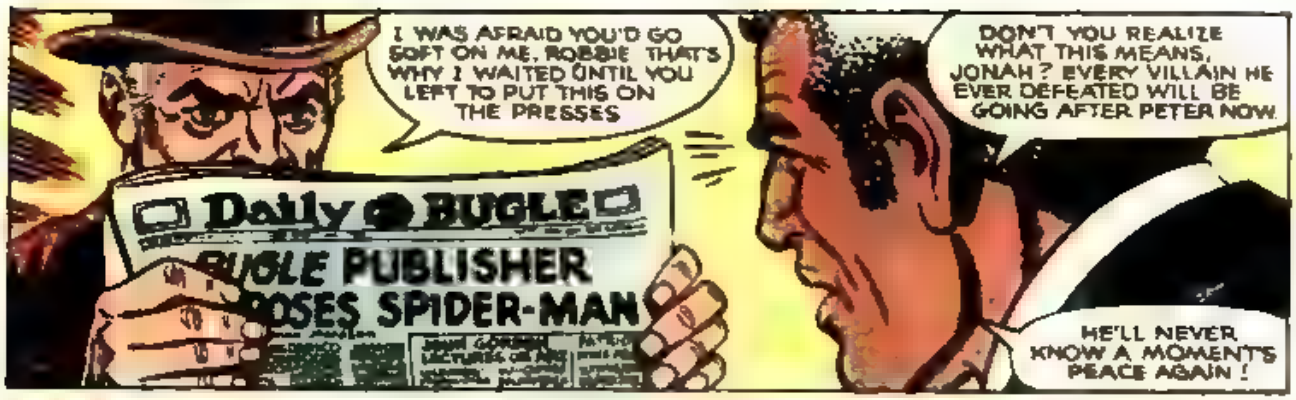
NOT ON YOUR LIFE, BOYS!
AW, PETE!
ARE
SHOOT THAT SUCKER DOWN, ROOKIE!

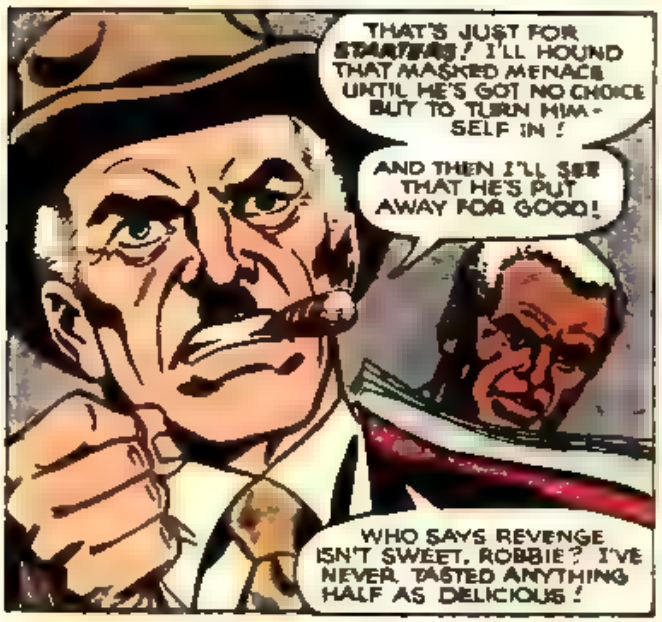

TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY LADIES, Mr. T
HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE SO THAT AUNT MAY COULD GET THE MEDICAL ATTENTION SHE NEEDS...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, SHE HAS TO PULL THROUGH...
SHE HAS TO!
KRASH!

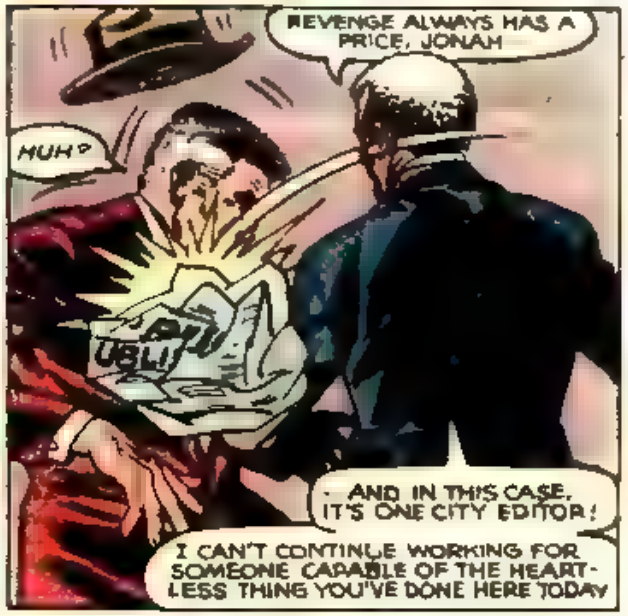
STOP SHOOTING, YOU MINDLESS FOOLS! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT HE'S GONE?
HOW MANY DECENT PEOPLE DO YOU HAVE TO HURT BEFORE YOU CALL IT A DAY?


DIDJA SEE THE WAY THAT WALL-CRAWLING COWARD TOOK OFF? THIS IS THE GREATEST DAY OF MY LIFE!
HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING, JONAH?
DON'T GO SHEDDING ANY TEARS OVER PARKER, ROBBIE. THAT LITTLE CREEP'S BEEN PLAYING US ALL FOR SUCKERS!

EVERY TIME I HANDED HIM A CHECK, HE MUST'VE FELT LIKE LAUGHING IN MY FACE!
IT WAS NEVER THAT WAY, MAN! YOU WEREN'T JUST A BOSS TO PETER AND YOU KNOW IT!
WELL, NOW IT'S MY TURN TO LAUGH!
AS SPIDER-MAN, HE'S SAVED YOUR SKIN A DOZEN TIMES OR MORE!


I WAS AFRAID YOU'D GO SOFT ON ME, ROBBIE THAT'S WHY I WAITED UNTIL YOU LEFT TO PUT THIS ON THE PRESSES
DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS, JONAH? EVERY VILLAIN HE EVER DEFEATED WILL BE GOING AFTER PETER NOW
Daily BUGLE
BUGLE PUBLISHER
POSES SPIDER-MAN
HE'LL NEVER KNOW A MOMENT'S PEACE AGAIN!


THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS! I'LL HOUND THAT MASKED MENACE UNTIL HE'S GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN HIMSELF IN!
AND THEN I'LL SEE THAT HE'S PUT AWAY FOR GOOD!
WHO SAYS REVENGE ISN'T SWEET, ROBBIE? I'VE NEVER TASTED ANYTHING HALF AS DELICIOUS!


REVENGE ALWAYS HAS A PRICE, JONAH
HUH?
-AND IN THIS CASE, IT'S ONE CITY EDITOR!
I CAN'T CONTINUE WORKING FOR SOMEONE CAPABLE OF THE HEARTLESS THING YOU'VE DONE HERE TODAY

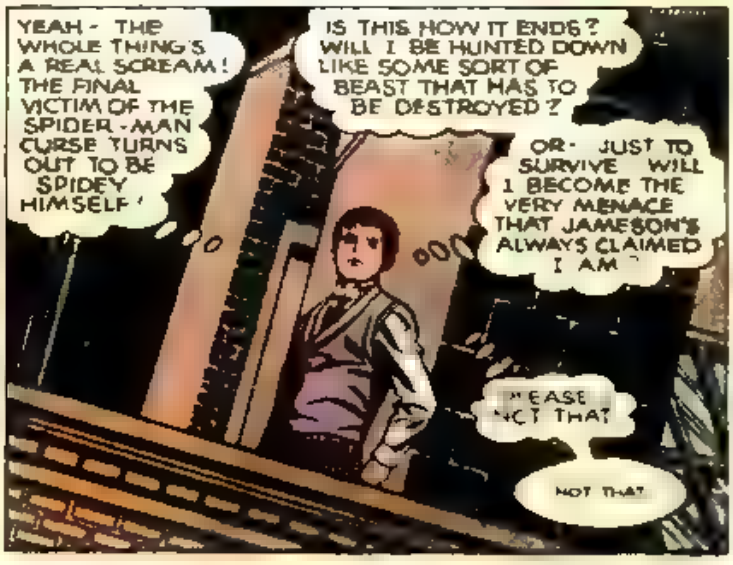
WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, GWEN. FIRST, WE'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO FOR MAY PARKER -
-THEN WE'LL FIND SOME WAY TO HELP PETER.
COME ON, LADY -- IT'S TIME TO BE STRONG.
TH- THANKS, MR. ROBERTSON!

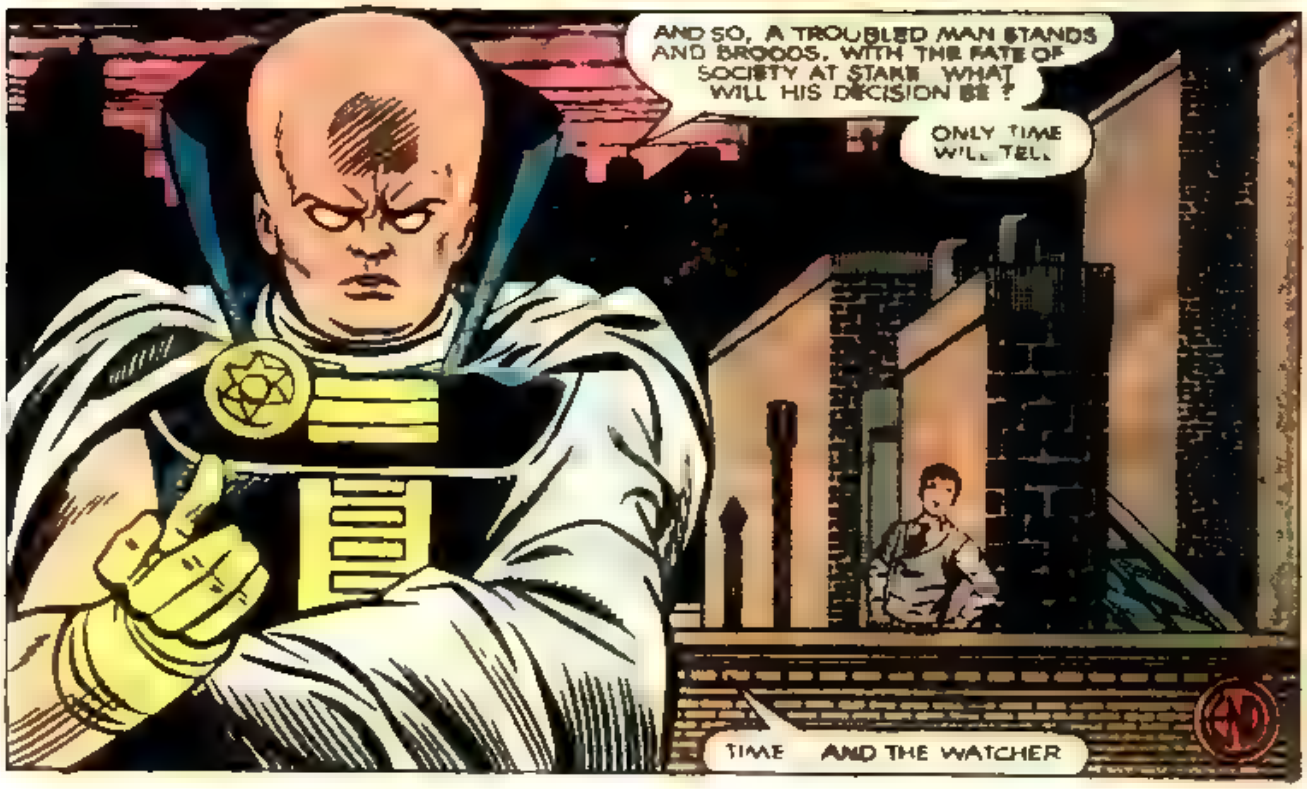
WE'LL GO TO THE OTHER PAPERS -- LET THEM KNOW THE WHOLE STORY -- WHAT KIND OF MAN PETER PARKER IS -
-AND BY THE TIME WE'RE THROUGH, THEY WON'T EVEN BE USING THE DAILY BUGLE TO WRAP FISH IN!

Epilogue

GOOD NEWS SURE TRAVELS FAST! THERE MUST BE AT LEAST A DOZEN COPS SURROUNDING THE BUILDING--
-- AND PROBABLY TWICE AS MANY WAITING FOR ME INSIDE THE APARTMENT
HOW AM I GOING TO GET TO MY SPIDEY SUIT AND WEB SHOOTERS WITHOUT INJURING SOME OF THEM?

I'VE NEVER FELT SO BLASTED HELPLESS! I CAN'T EVEN FIND OUT HOW AUNT MAY IS BECAUSE THE ENTIRE NEW YORK POLICE DEPARTMENT IS AFTER ME!
A SIMPLE PHONE CALL AND I DON'T DARE MAKE IT!
AND WHAT ABOUT GWEN? I WAS SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF HER FOREVER!
WHAT A LAUGH!


YEAH - THE WHOLE THING'S A REAL SCREAM! THE FINAL VICTIM OF THE SPIDER-MAN CURSE TURNS OUT TO BE SPIDEY HIMSELF!
IS THIS HOW IT ENDS? WILL I BE HUNTED DOWN LIKE SOME SORT OF BEAST THAT HAS TO BE DESTROYED?
OR- JUST TO SURVIVE WILL I BECOME THE VERY MENACE THAT JAMESON'S ALWAYS CLAIMED I AM?
PLEASE NOT THAT
NOT THAT


AND SO, A TROUBLED MAN STANDS AND BROODS, WITH THE FATE OF SOCIETY AT STAKE. WHAT WILL HIS DECISION BE?
ONLY TIME WILL TELL
TIME AND THE WATCHER

Stan Lee presents:
UNTOLD TALES OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE!
I AM THE WATCHER AND THOUGH I SOMETIMES RELATE EVENTS FROM REALITIES THAT DIVERGE FROM OUR OWN MY PRIMARY TASK IS TO MONITOR THE EARTH OF OUR UNIVERSE. I HAVE OBSERVED THIS WORLD FROM ITS VERY INFANCY AND I HAVE SEEN ITS WONDROUS HISTORY UNFOLD
WITNESS THIS SCENE FROM REMOTEST PREHISTORY. THE BEINGS YOU SEE BEFORE YOU WERE UNTIL SCANT YEARS AGO MERE PRIMITIVE PRIMATES. THEN THE AWESOME ALIEN EXPERIMENTERS KNOWN AS THE CELESTIALS CAME TO EARTH AND TAMPERED WITH THEIR GENETIC CODES TO PRODUCE AN EVOLUTIONARY OFFSHOOT OF HUMANITY—WITH POWERS, LONGEVITY AND PERSPECTIVES DENIED THE MAINSTREAM OF THE SPECIES. IT IS A RACE OF MEN WHO WILL ONE DAY BE KNOWN AS—
THE FIRST ETERNALS
ON THIS MOMENTOUS DAY THEY CONGREGATE ON A BLEAK ARCTIC MOUNTAIN TO WATCH ONE OF THEIR KIND PREFORM A UNIQUE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY
WE HAVE WANDERED THE ENTIRE SPHERE IN SEARCH OF A HOME AND NOW HERE ATOP THE POLAR MOUNTAINS FAR FROM ALL OTHER LIFE
WE N... JOIN TOGETHER TO USE OUR GROWING POWERS OF MOLECULAR MANIPULATION TO CARVE A SLEEPING CITY OUT OF ROCK AND ICE—A CITY WE CAN CALL OUR OWN
LEAD ON, CHRONOS!
RALPH MACCHIO WORDS
RICH BUCKLER & CHIC STONE PICTURES
J. MORELLI LETTERS
E. MANNIGAN COLORS

"FOR LONG MONTHS THEY LABORED, SPURRED BY THE COMMON DREAM OF CIVILIZATION... WHEN THEY WOULD FINALLY, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR STILL BRIEF EXISTENCE, HAVE THE CHANCE TO MEDITATE UPON THEIR DESTINY FROM A STRONGHOLD.

"AND THEN, AT LAST THE CITY THEY NAMED TITANOS WAS COMPLETED. FROM A DISTANCE, IT HAD THE LOOK OF UTTER SERENITY. BUT LISTENING TO TWO OF THE ETARNALS' MOST RESPECTED LEADERS...

...WE LEARN THAT THE OUTER SERENITY CONCEALED SEETHING PHILOSOPHICAL DISSENSION...

HEAR ME, CHRONOS, YOUR DESIGNS FOR OUR RACE'S FUTURE ARE ABSURD! WHAT GOOD IS OUR VAST POWER IF WE DO NOT USE IT FOR OUR OWN GAIN?!

WHAT YOU PROPOSE, URANOS, SICKENS THE SOUL WITHIN ME!

THEN YOU ARE A FOOL! WE WERE NOT GRANTED THESE MIRACULOUS POWERS TO SPEND OUR DAYS IN IDLE CONTEMPLATION!

IT IS OUR LOT TO CONQUER... TO ADVANCE ON THE WEAKER WORLD AROUND US AND SUBDUE IT! AND I SAY TO YOU, CHRONOS-- THAT IN THIS I SPEAK FOR MANY OF OUR KIND!

EVEN IF YOU SPOKE FOR THEM ALL, URANOS, IT WOULD NOT CHANGE MY MIND. THE WORLD IS NOT TO BE SUBDUED, BUT STUDIED. THERE ARE WONDERS AROUND US...

WONDERS YOU WOULD TRAMPLE UNDERFOOT IN YOUR BLIND AGGRESSION!

SHOULD YOU STAND IN OUR WAY, FEEBLE ONE, YOU SHALL BE TRAMPLED AS WELL.

NEVER! THOUGH I AM A MAN OF HONOR, I WILL GLADLY CAST AWAY MY STAFF FOR SWORD TO QUELL YOUR MAD REBELLION!

SO BE IT! THE GAUNTLET HAS BEEN DROPPED... THE TIME FOR TALK IS PAST!!

NOW ONLY WAR WILL DECIDE THE GREAT ISSUE THAT DIVIDES US!

"AND IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, A SAVAGE CIVIL WAR CONSUMED MANKINDS MIGHTIEST RACE. THE TWO FACTIONS BATTLED FERACIOUSLY. THE COURAGE OF THEIR COMMITMENTS DROVE THEM...

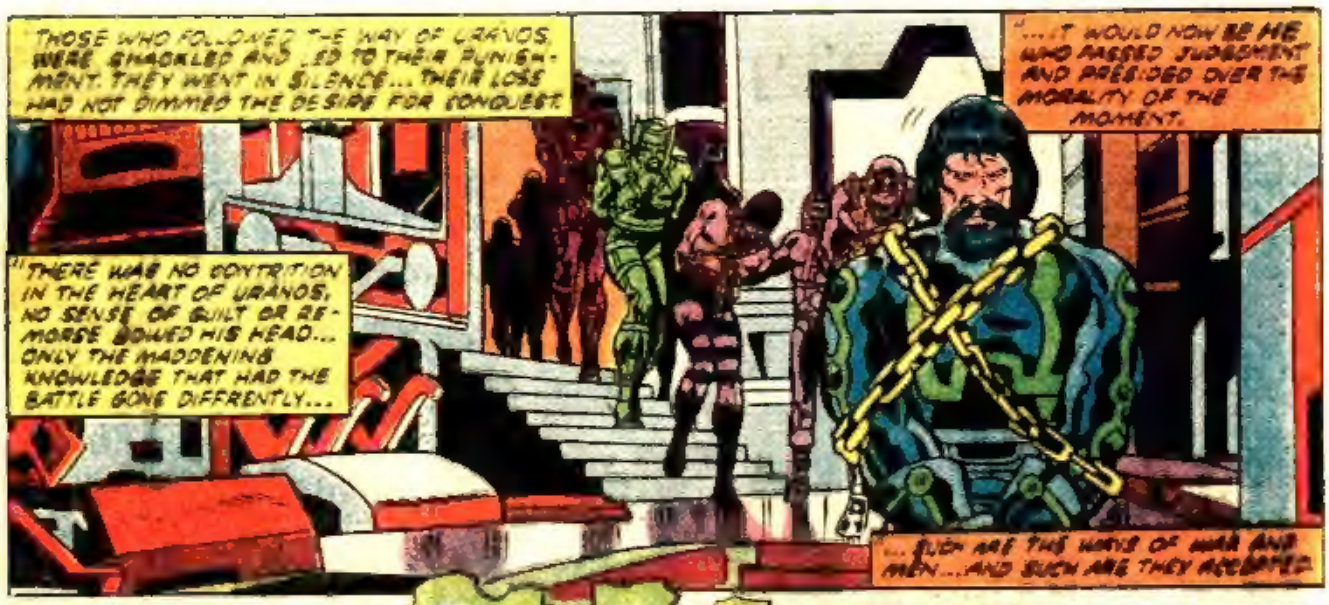
ONWARD! ONWARD! DEATH TO THE FORCES OF THE SIMPERING CHRONOS! DEATH!

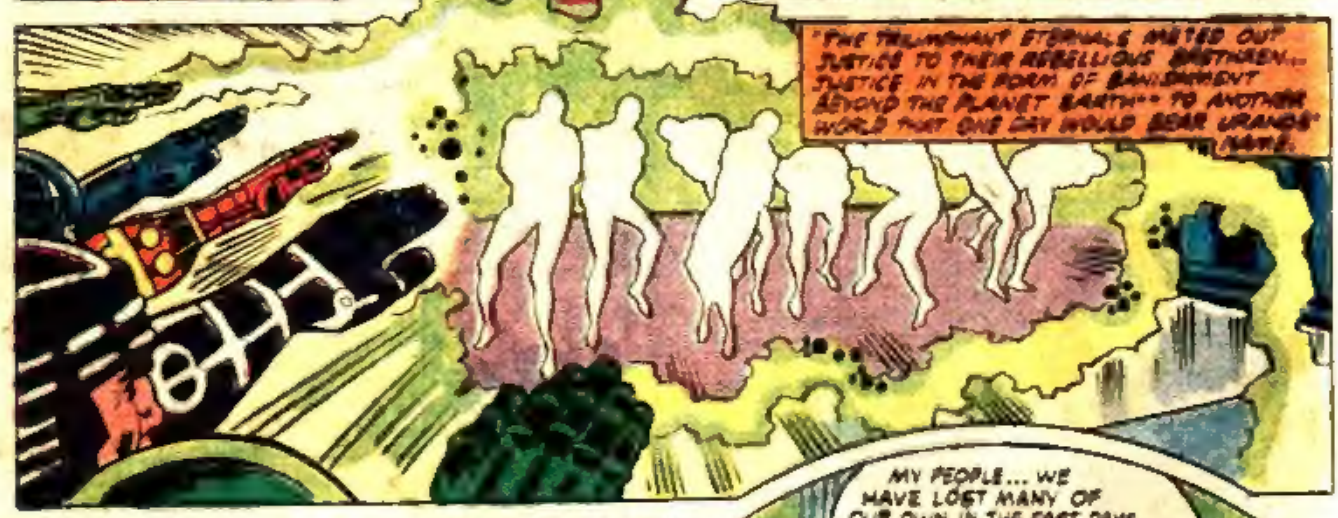
"INDEED THERE WAS DEATH... AND DEVASTATION. THE ONCE PROUD CITY OF TITANOS WAS DESTROYED IN THE RAGING CONFLAGRATION... AND MANY OF HER CITIZENS PERISHED WITH HER.

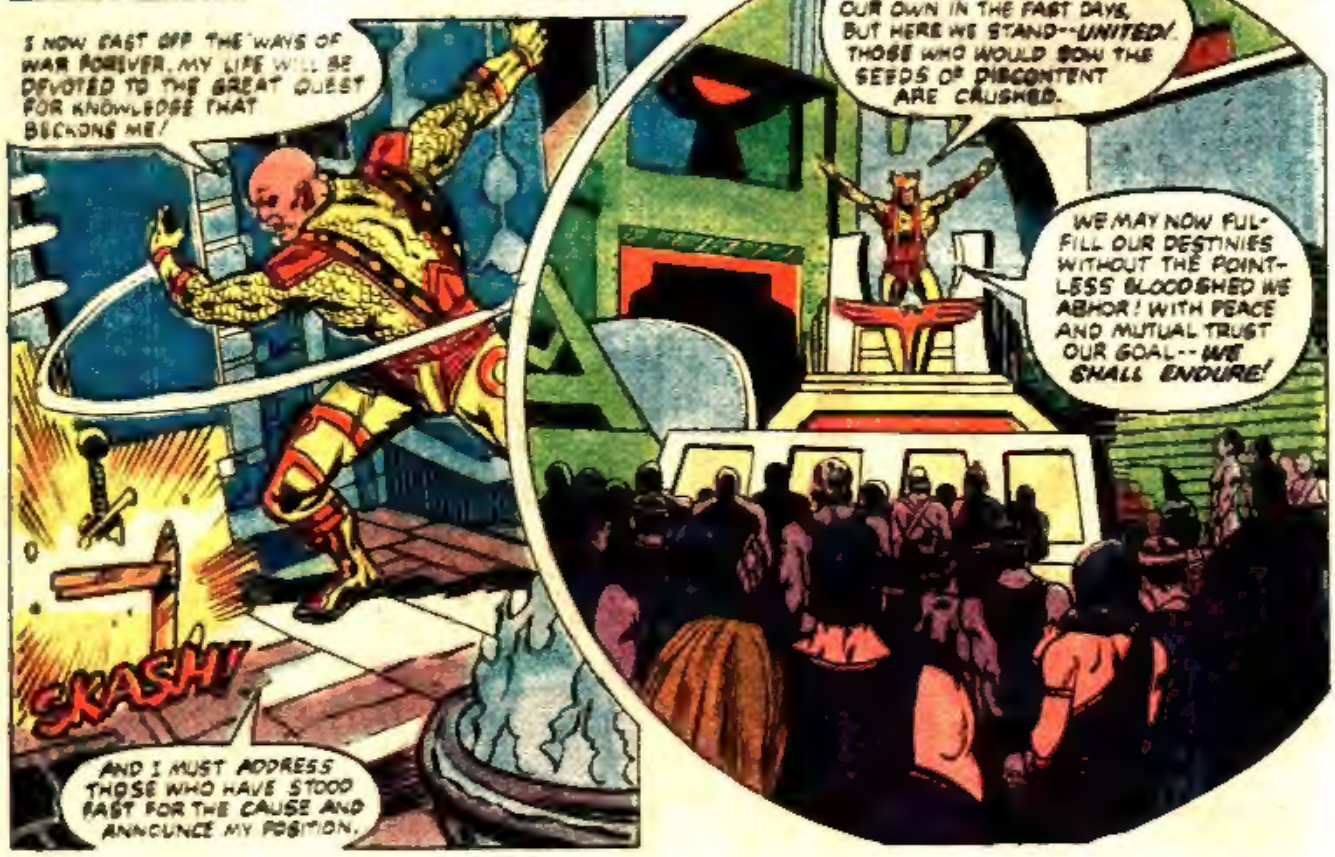
"BUT TO EVEN SUCH A STRUGGLE AS THIS, THERE HAD TO COME AN ENDING... AND IT ARRIVED ON A BODY-STREWN BATTLEFIELD, WHERE URANOS AND CHRONOS HAD MET IN SINGLE COMBAT.

YOU ARE DEFEATED, URANOS. YOUR MAD DREAM IS OVER! FOR WITH MY VICTORY OVER YOU, YOUR MEN HAVE LOST THE DESIRE TO CONTINUE!

FROM THIS MOMENT ON, THE WAY AND THE WILL OF CHRONOS SHALL PREVAIL!


THOSE WHO FOLLOWED THE WAY OF URANOS, WERE SHACKLED AND LED TO THEIR PUNISHMENT. THEY WENT IN SILENCE... THEIR LOSS HAD NOT DIMMED THE DESIRE FOR CONQUEST.
"...IT WOULD NOW BE HE WHO PASSED JUDGEMENT AND PRESIDED OVER THE MORALITY OF THE MOMENT.
"THERE WAS NO CONTRITION IN THE HEART OF URANOS, NO SENSE OF GUILT OR REMORSE BOWED HIS HEAD... ONLY THE MADDENING KNOWLEDGE THAT HAD THE BATTLE GONE DIFFERENTLY...
...SUCH ARE THE WAYS OF WAR AND MEN...AND SUCH ARE THEY ACCEPTED.


"THE TRIUMPHANT ETERNALS METED OUT JUSTICE TO THEIR REBELLIOUS BRETHREN... JUSTICE IN THE FORM OF BANISHMENT BEYOND THE PLANET EARTH"* TO ANOTHER WORLD THAT ONE DAY WOULD BEAR URANOS' NAME.


I NOW CAST OFF THE WAYS OF WAR FOREVER. MY LIFE WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE GREAT QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE THAT BECKONS ME!
SKASH!
AND I MUST ADDRESS THOSE WHO HAVE STOOD FAST FOR THE CAUSE AND ANNOUNCE MY POSITION.
MY PEOPLE... WE HAVE LOST MANY OF OUR OWN IN THE FAST DAYS. BUT HERE WE STAND--UNITED! THOSE WHO WOULD SOW THE SEEDS OF DISCONTENT ARE CRUSHED.
WE MAY NOW FULFILL OUR DESTINIES WITHOUT THE POINTLESS BLOODSHED WE ABHOR! WITH PEACE AND MUTUAL TRUST OUR GOAL--WE SHALL ENDURE!

"TIME PASSED. TITANOS WAS REBUILT AND ALL THE WHILE CHRONOS LABORED IN HIS LABORATORY, PROBING THE SECRETS OF LIFE.
AT LAST I'VE ISOLATED THE UNIQUE COSMIC ENERGY THAT MAKES US SUPERIOR TO THE REST OF OUR SPECIES.
"BUT IN HIS MOMENT OF ULTIMATE TRIUMPH-- DISASTER STRUCK. THE VOLATILE TUBE SHATTERED, UNABLE TO CONTAIN THE CONCENTRATED FORCES WITHIN IT.
"A MAMMOTH EXPLOSION ENSUED-- ROCKING ALL OF TITANOS. AND CHRONOS WAS HURLED OUTWARD... OUT INTO THE VAST REACHES OF SPACE, WHERE HIS BODY DISINTEGRATED INTO COSMIC DUST.
"BUT CHRONOS DID NOT DIE. SO GREAT WERE THE LIFE ESSENCES IRRADIATING HIS FORM AT THE INSTANT OF THE EXPLOSION THAT HE SURVIVED--A BODILESS WRAITH... AN INTANGIBLE ENTITY...
"... BECOMING AS ONE WITH THE VERY UNIVERSE HE HAD PONDERED FOR SO LONG. HIS CRAVING MIND FOUND THE ANSWERS IT SOUGHT... IN THE COLD VOID.
ON EARTH, ALL WHO LIVED ON TITANOS HAD ALSO BEEN VICTIMS OF THE SPREADING RADIANCE... A RADIANCE WHICH MADE CHRONOS' PEOPLE EVEN AWARE THAN THEY WERE, FOR ITS EFFECT HAD BEEN TO IMPART PRACTICAL IMMORTALITY TO THOSE WHO TOUCHED IT.
UNWITTINGLY, CHRONOS HAD BEQUEATHED THIS GIFT OF TIMELESSNESS TO THOSE HE LOVED. NOW TRULY WERE THEY... THE ETERNALS.